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Berry et al.

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(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 5, 2020**

(54) **COOLING OF INTEGRATED COMBUSTOR NOZZLE OF SEGMENTED ANNULAR COMBUSTION SYSTEM**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 528 days.

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Assistant Examiner — Todd N Jordan

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(60) Provisional application No. 62/313,320, filed on Mar.
25, 2016.

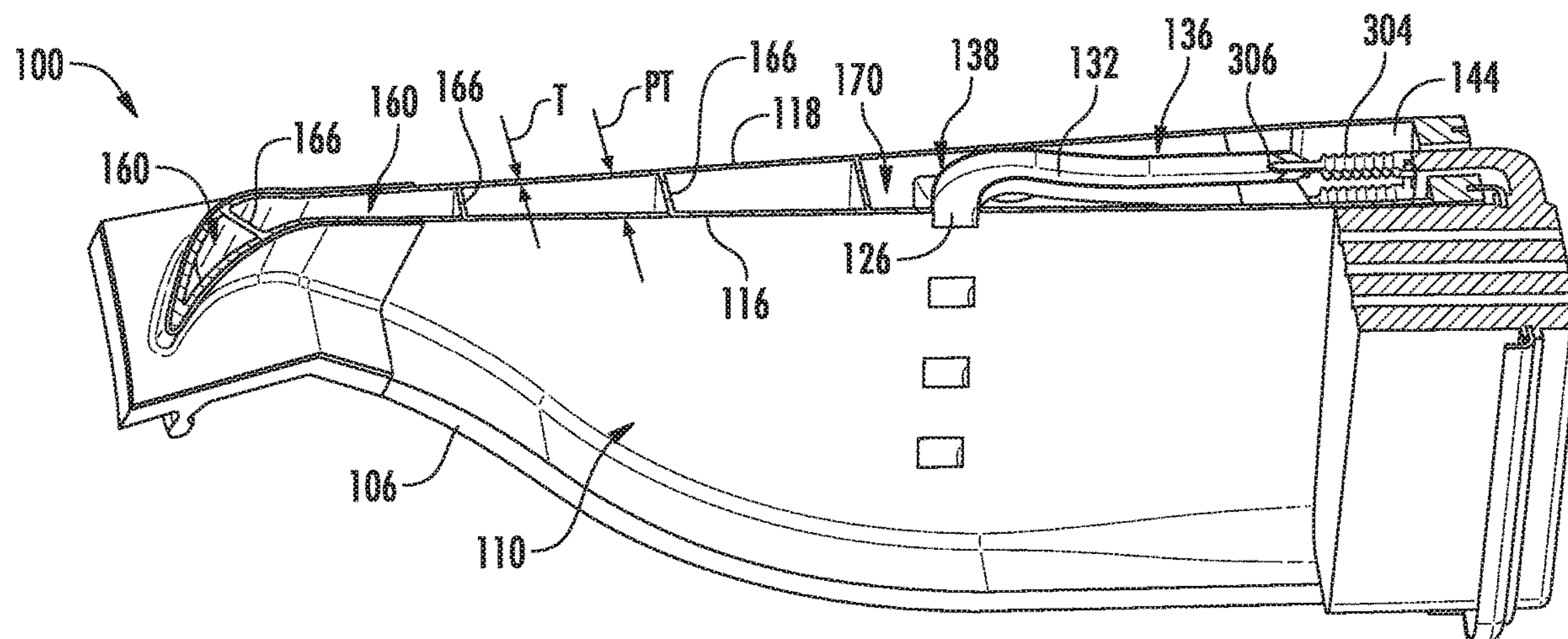
A segmented annular combustion system includes integrated
combustor nozzles, each of which has a fuel injection panel
disposed radially between an inner liner segment and an
outer liner segment. The fuel injection panel includes an aft
end portion, a first side wall, a second side wall, premixing
channels defined between the first side wall and the side
wall, and injection outlets defined along at least one of the
first side wall and the second side wall. The aft end portion
defines a turbine nozzle portion. An interior portion between
the first side wall and the second side wall includes walls
that extend between the first and second side walls, thereby
partitioning the interior portion into discrete air cavities. The
air cavities and the liner segments may be cooled by
impingement inserts or panels.

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F23R 3/00 (2006.01)
F23R 3/28 (2006.01)
F23R 3/34 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC *F23R 3/002* (2013.01); *F23R 3/286*
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2900/03044 (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC *F23R 3/28*; *F23R 3/286*; *F23R 3/34*; *F23R*
2900/03041; *F23R 2900/03042*;
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 See application file for complete search history.

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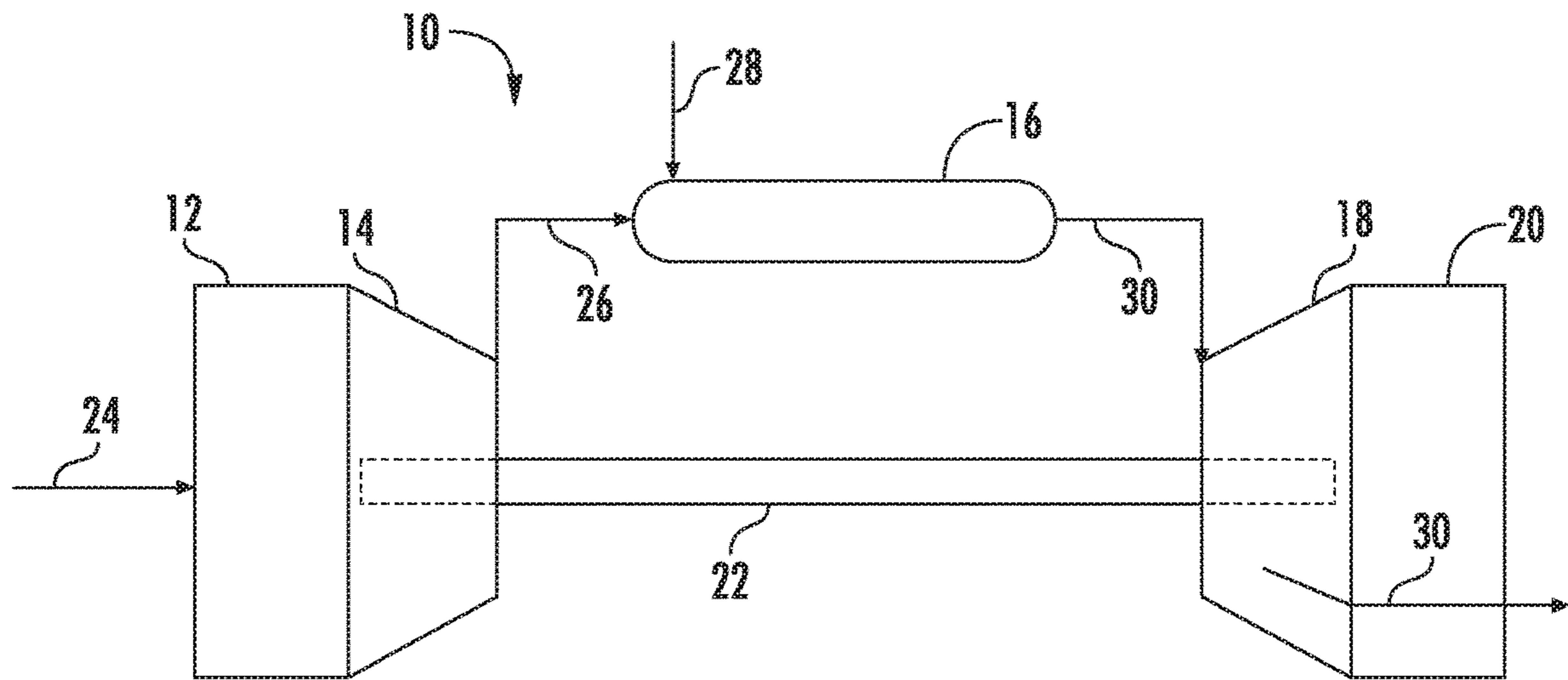


FIG. 1

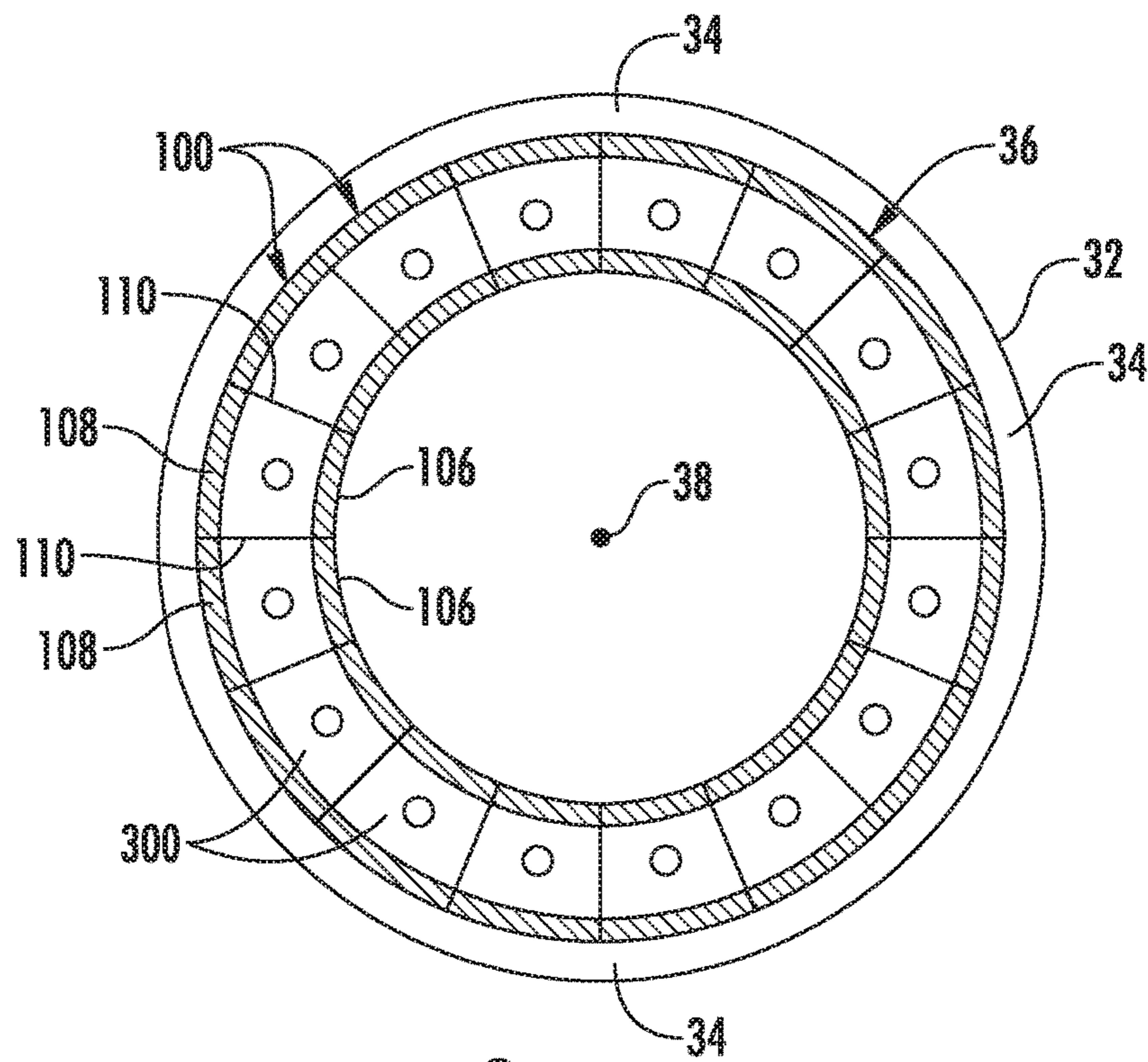
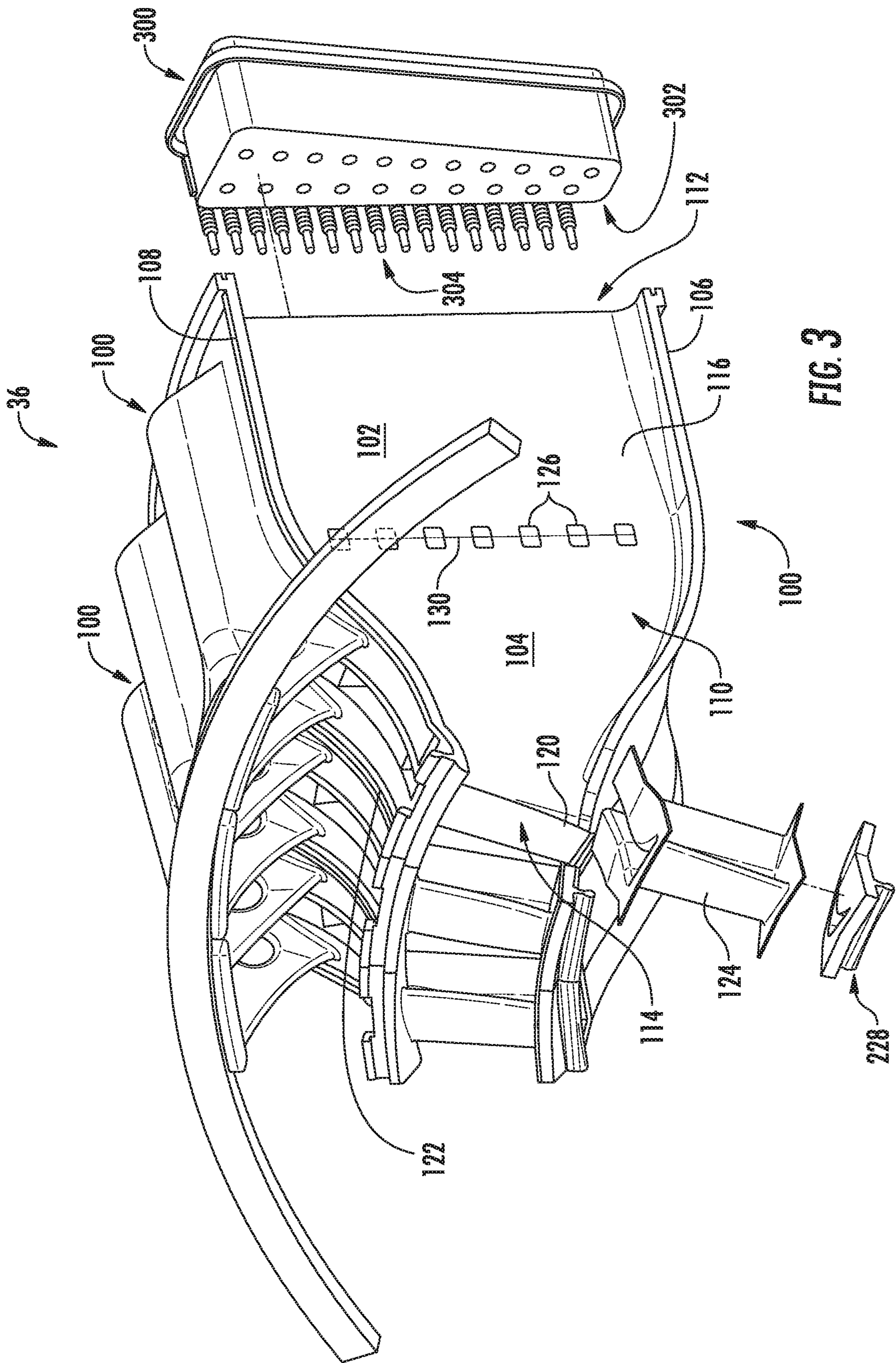


FIG. 2



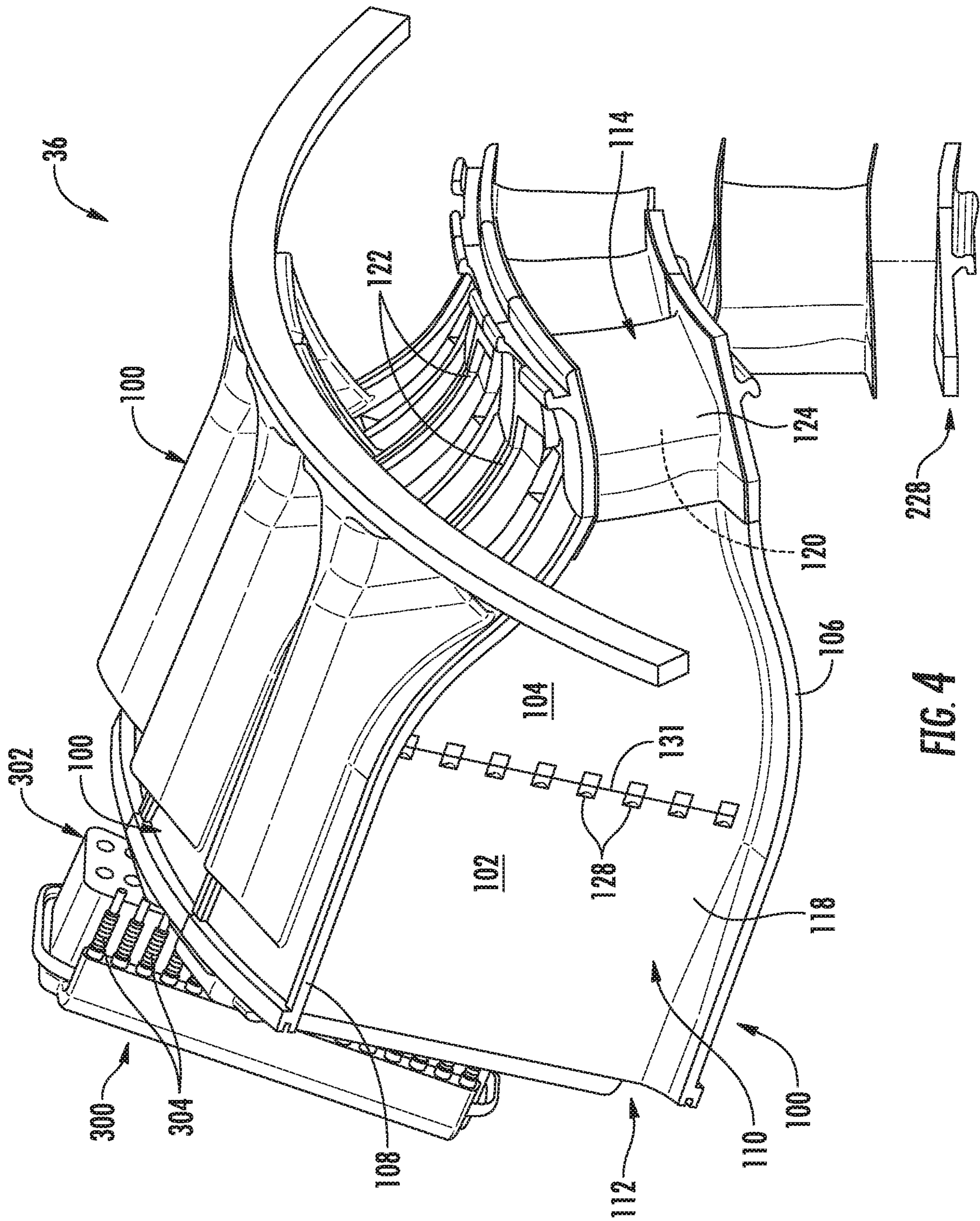
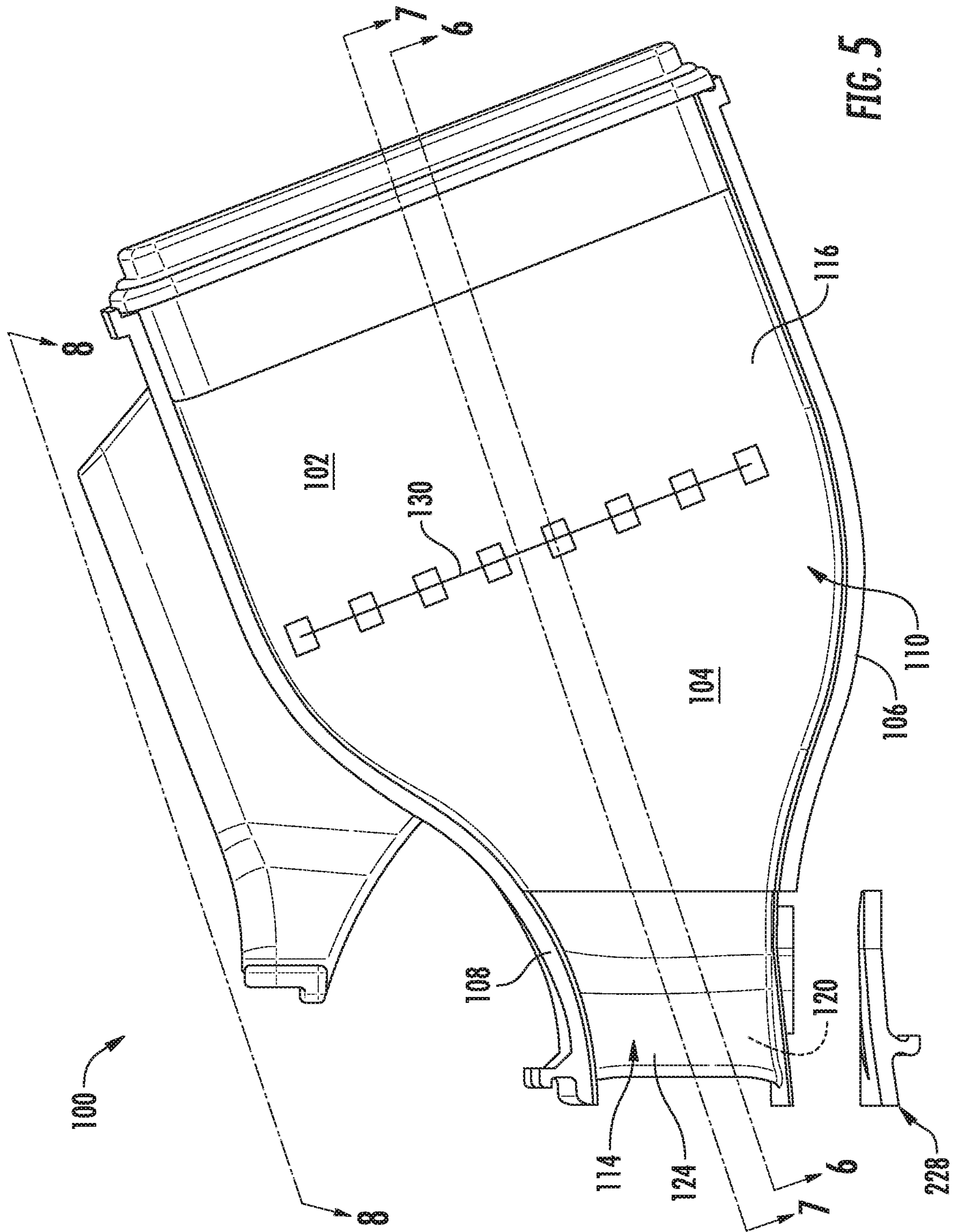
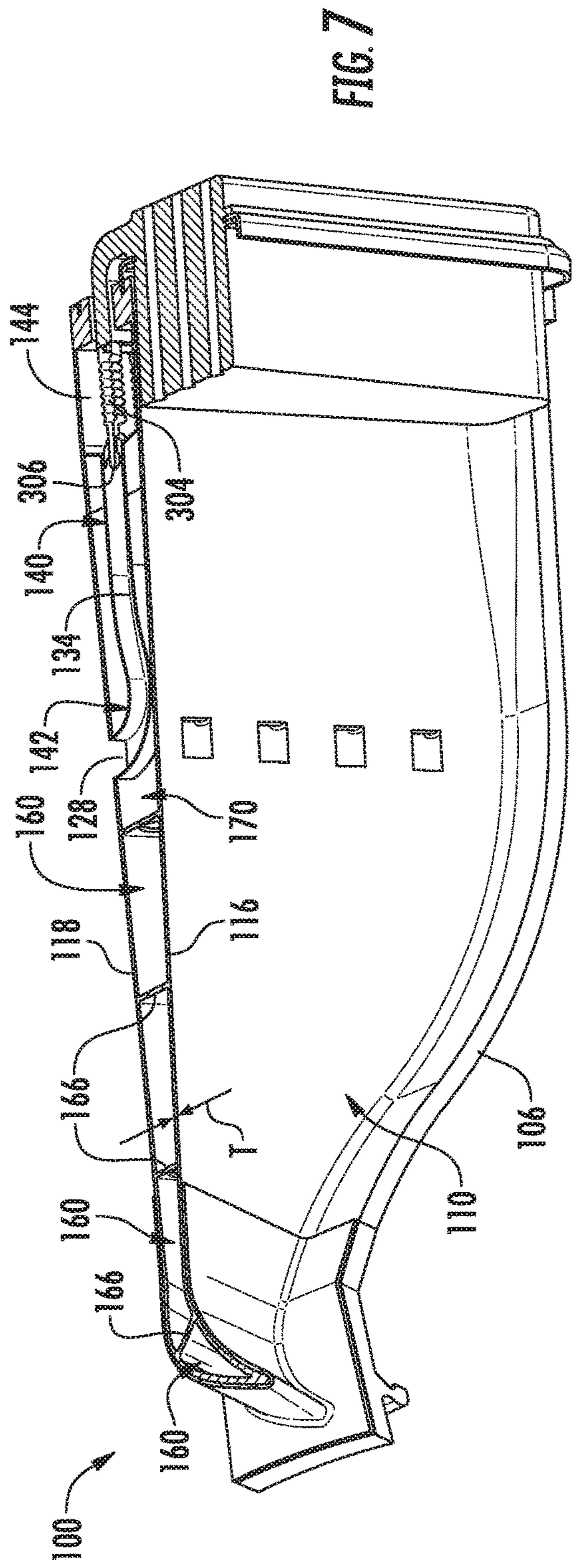
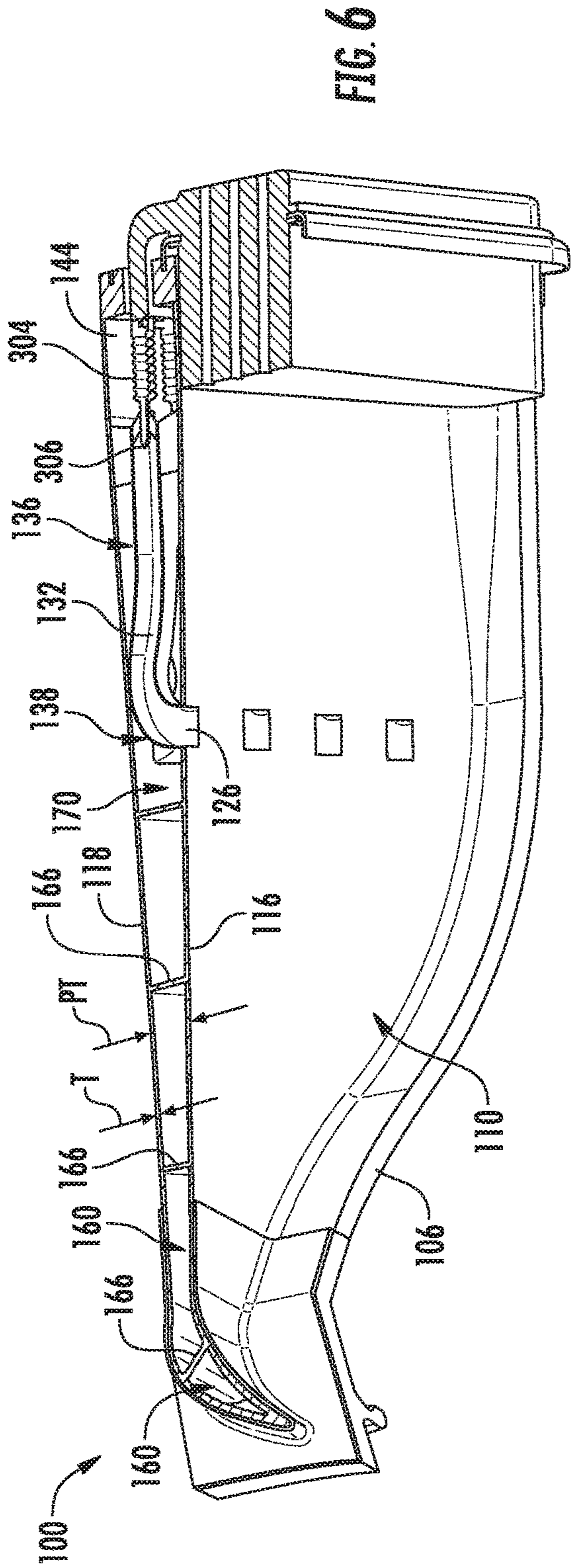
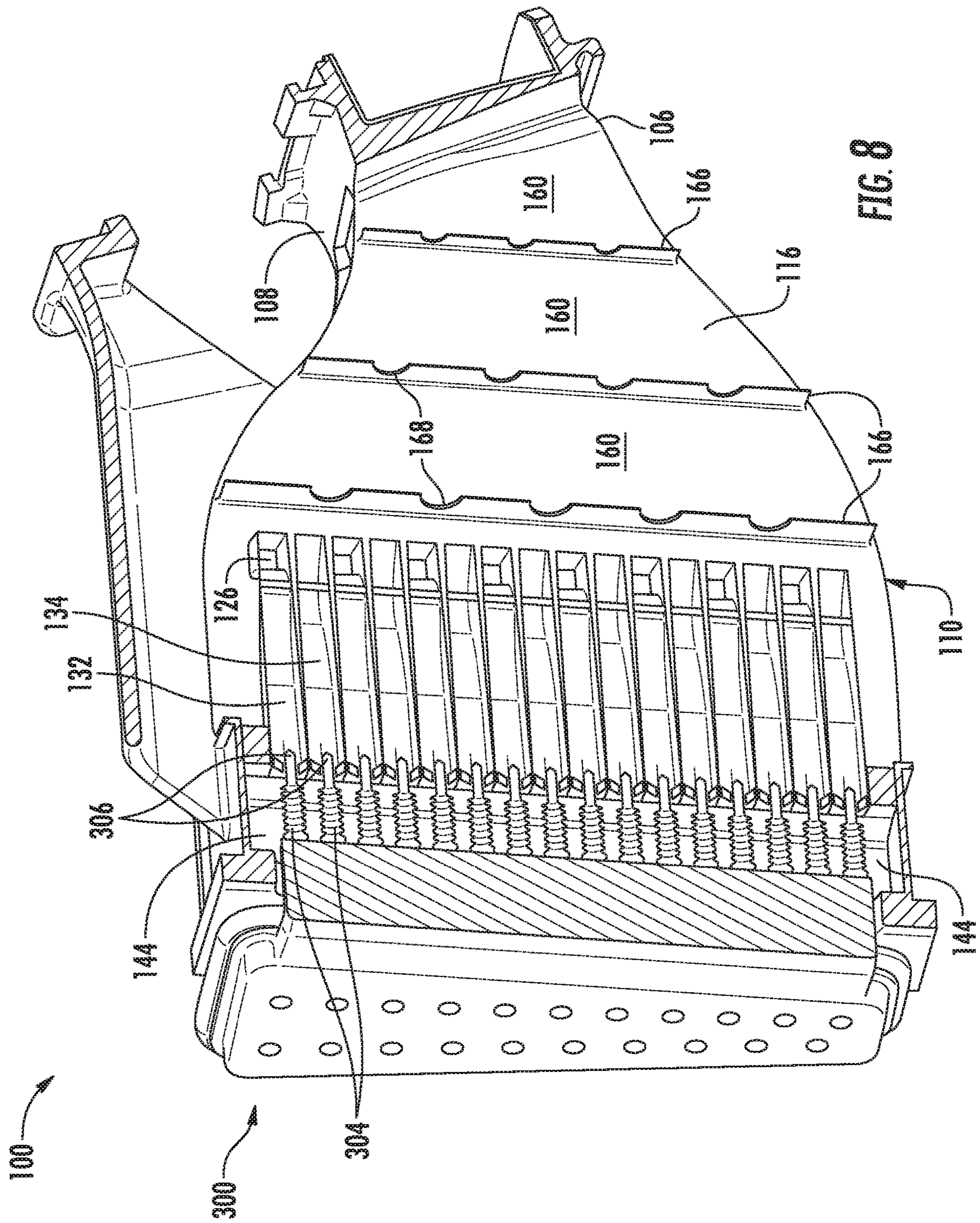


FIG. 4







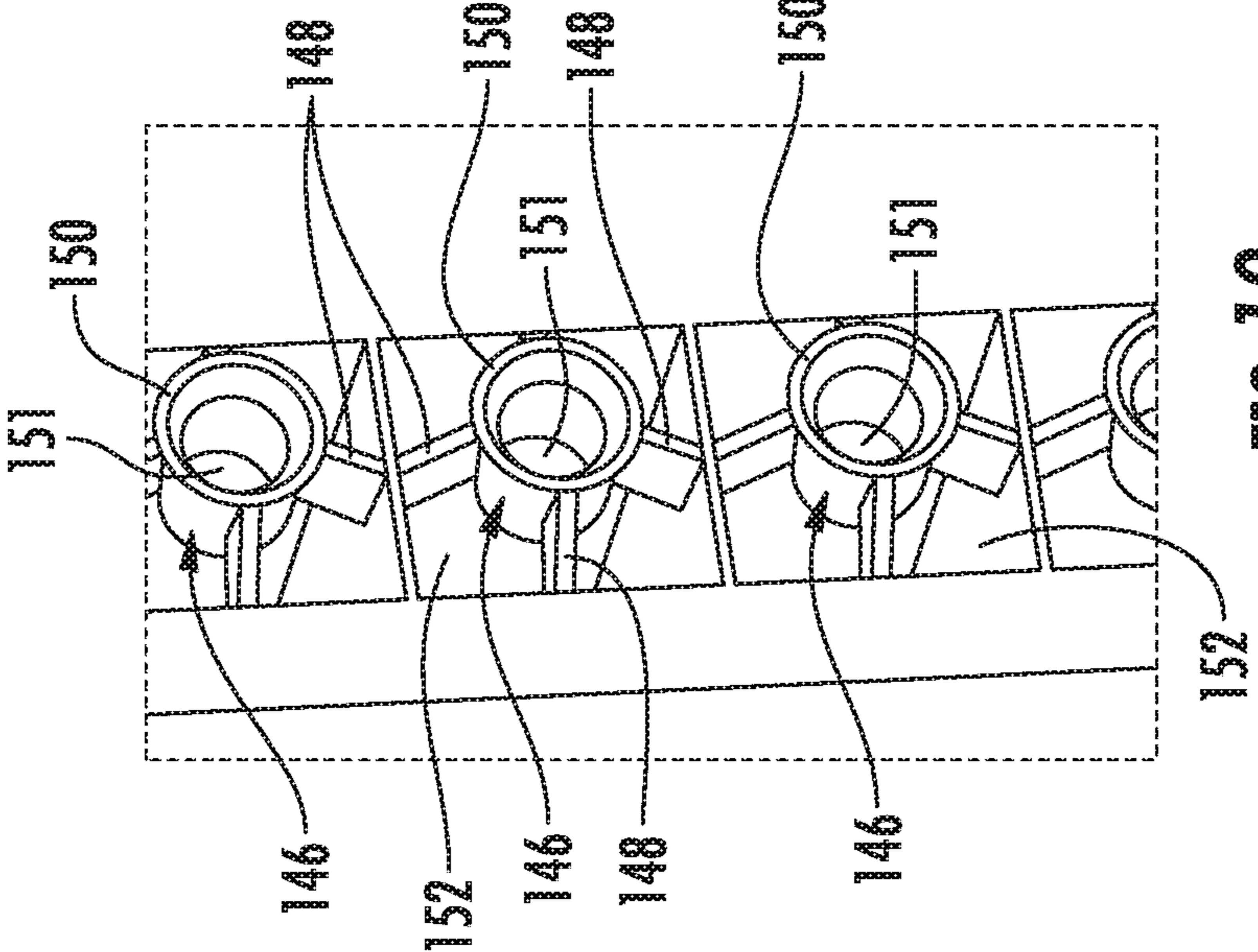
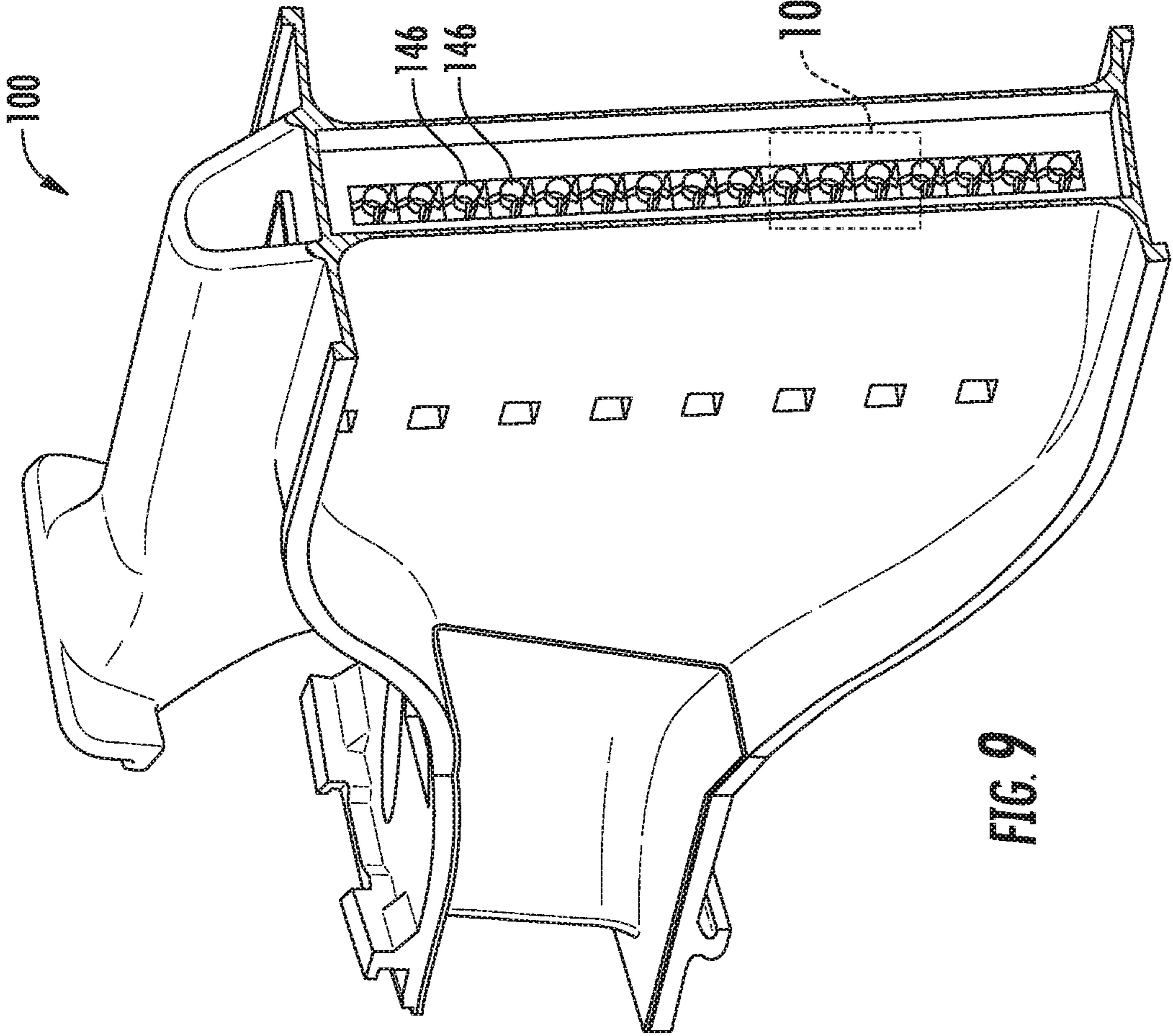


FIG. 9

FIG. 10

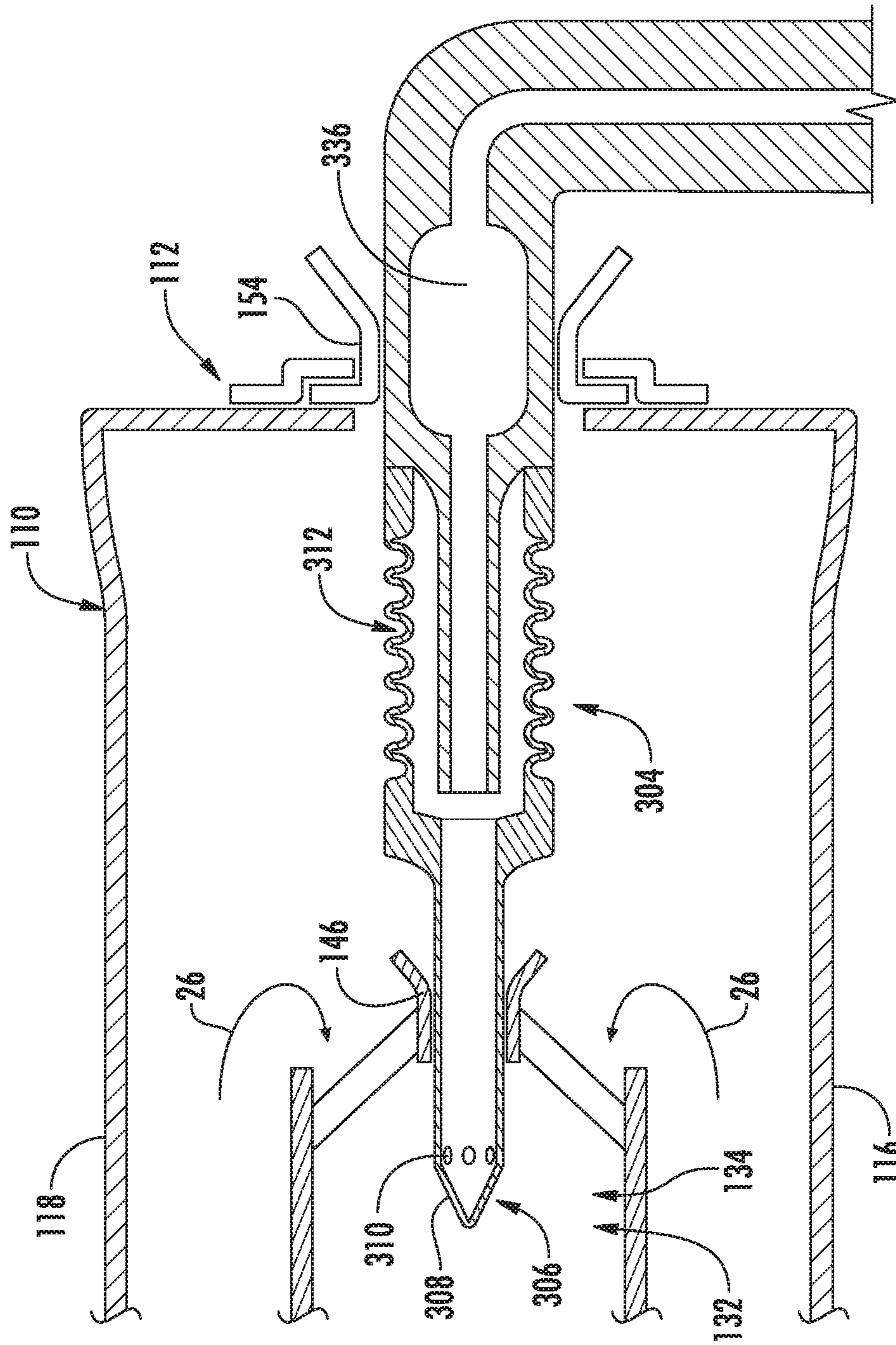


FIG. 11

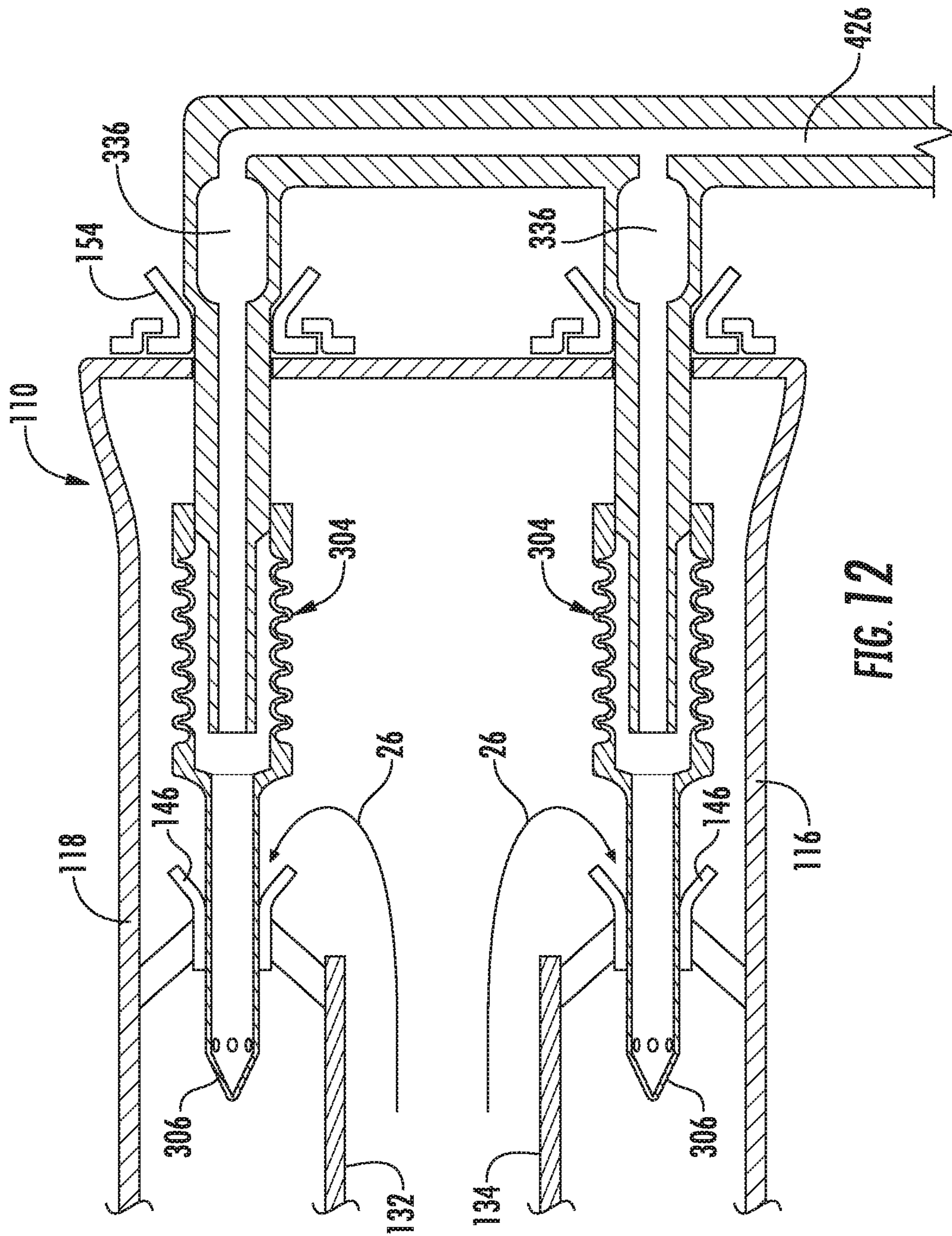


FIG. 12

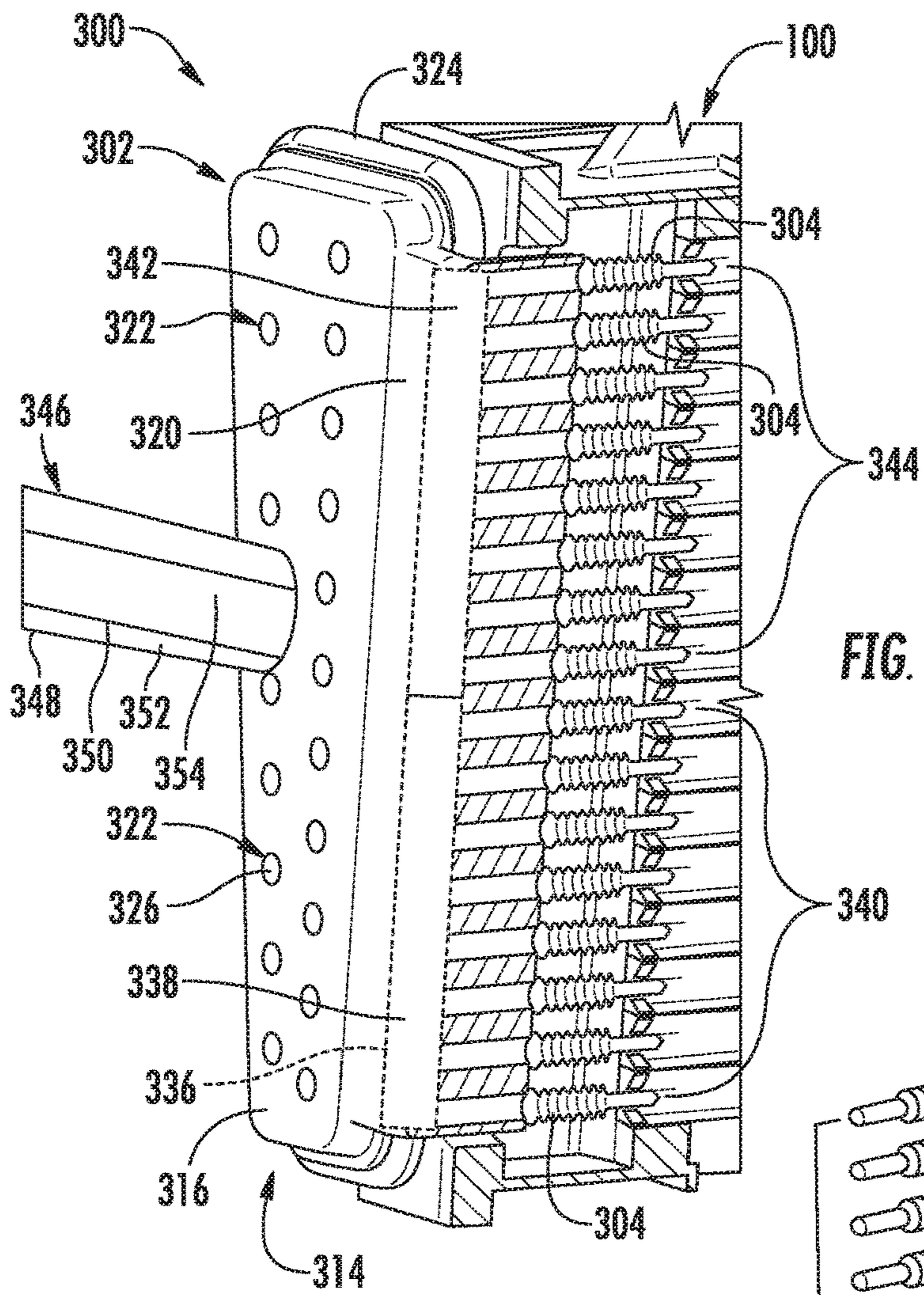


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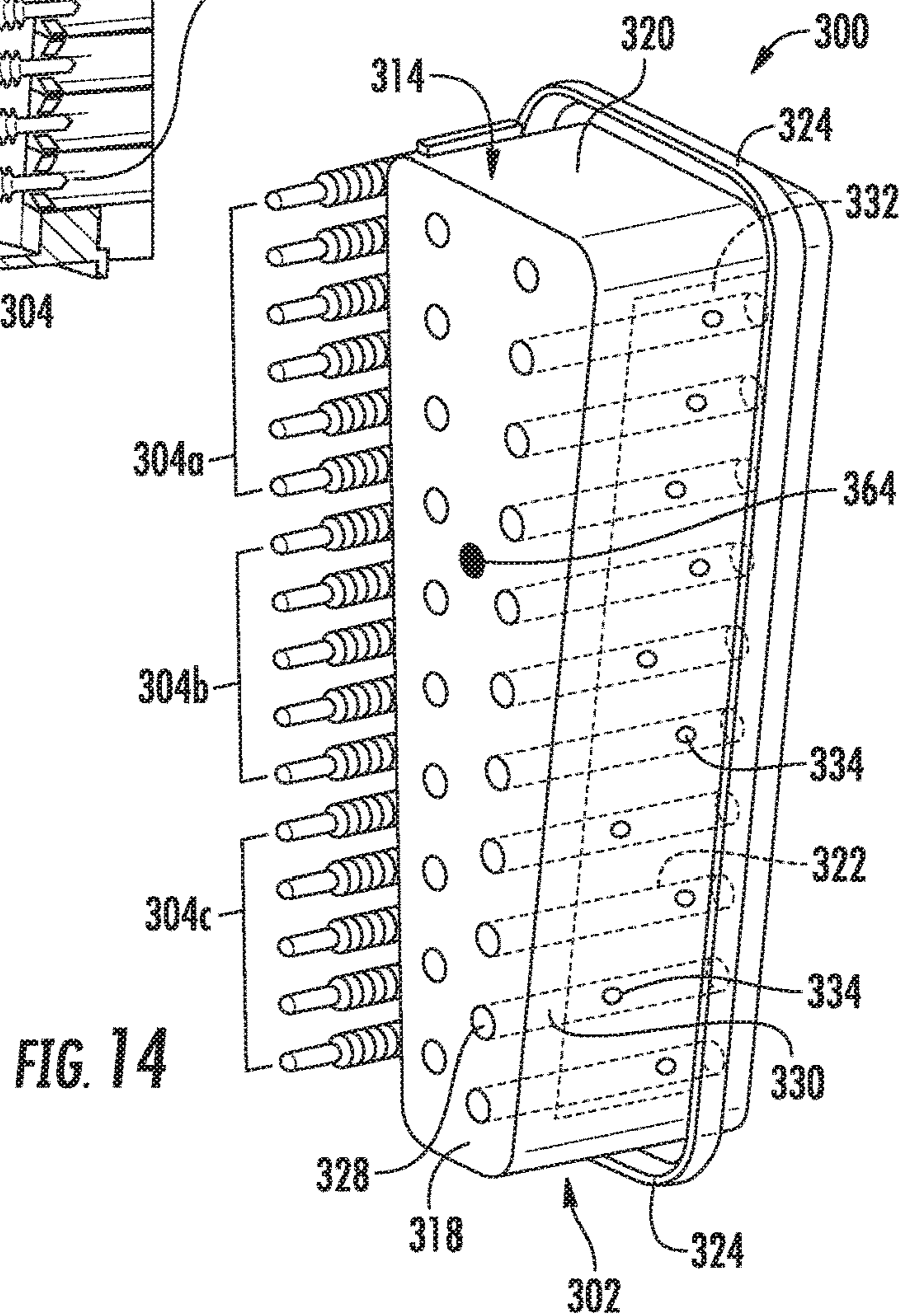
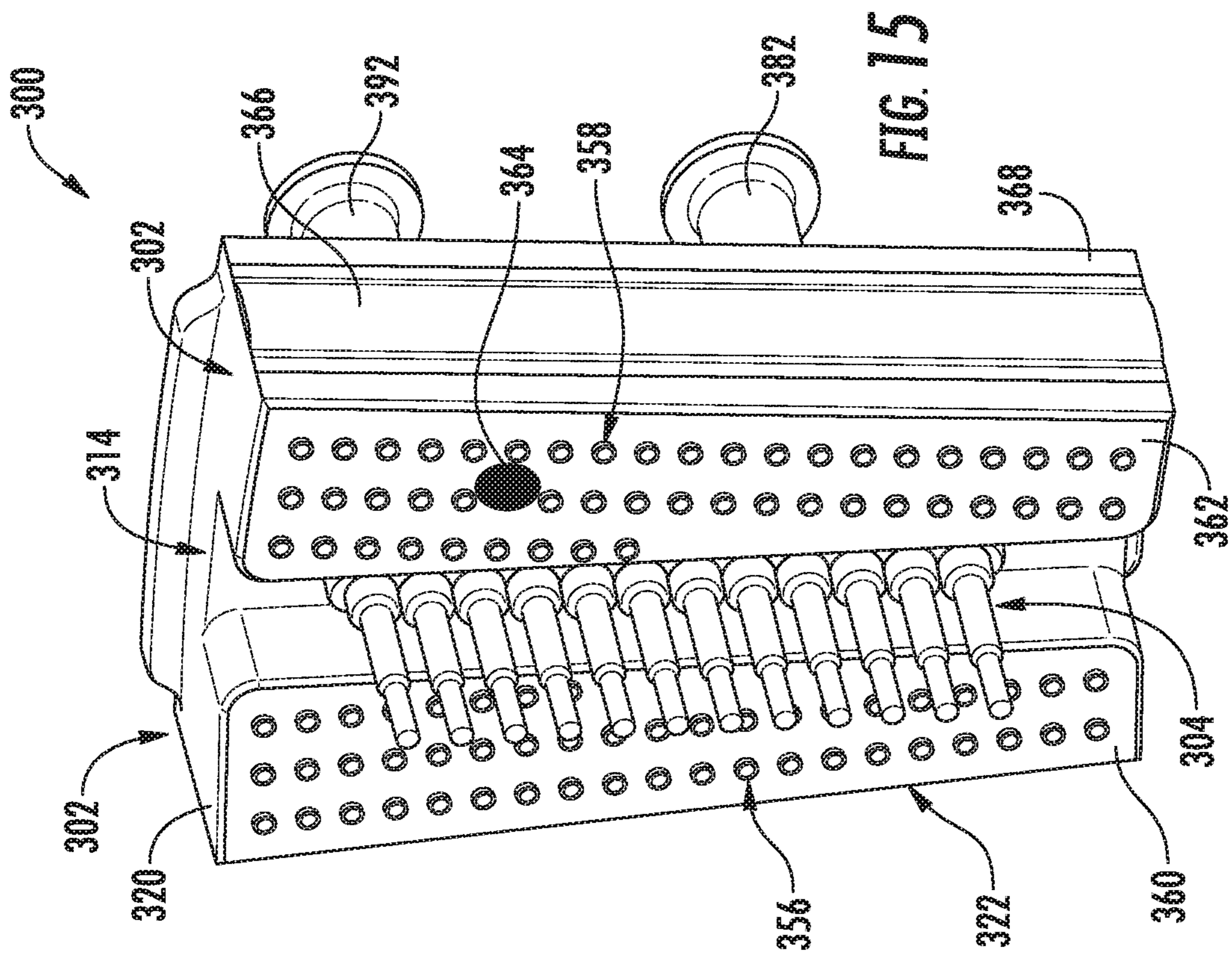
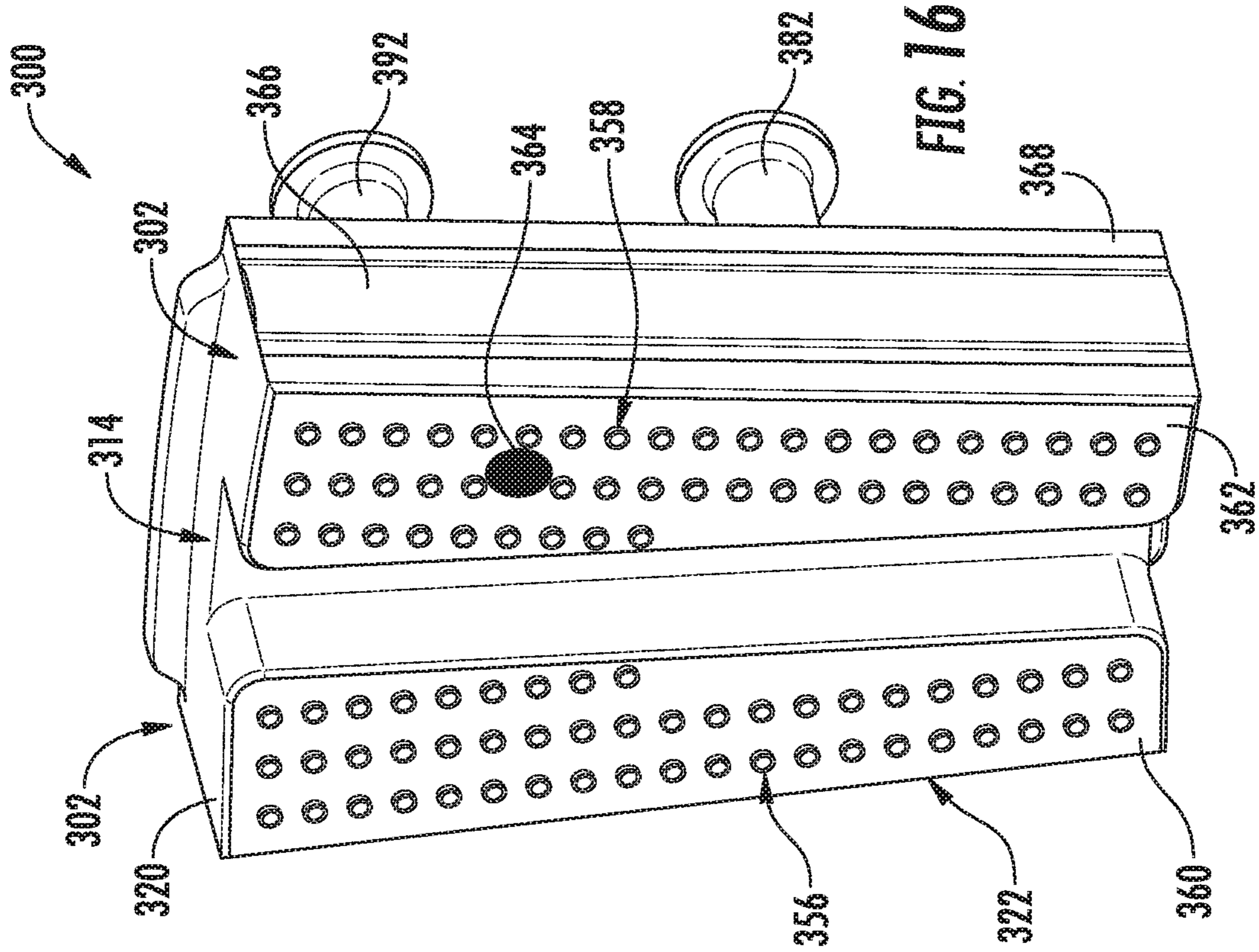
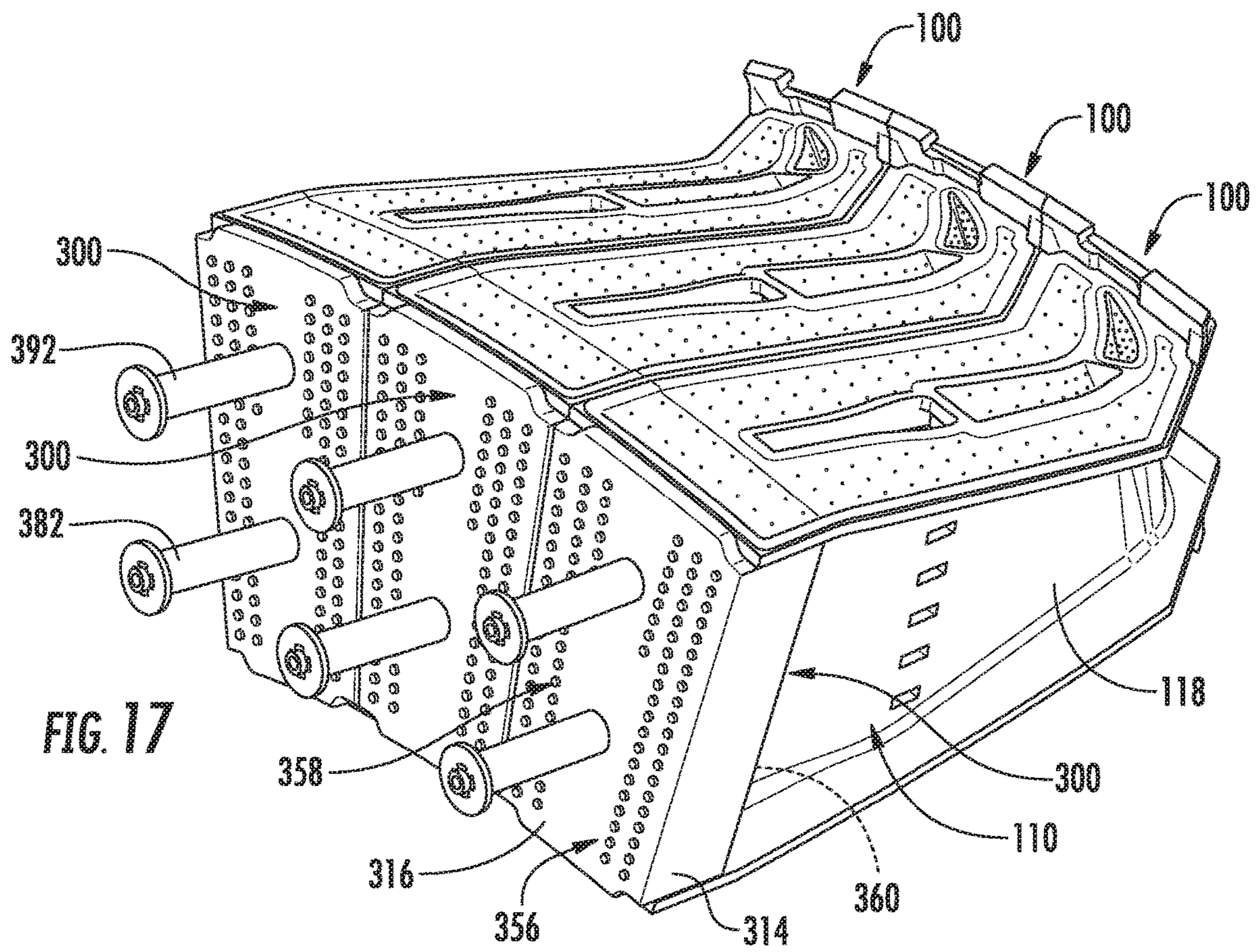


FIG. 14





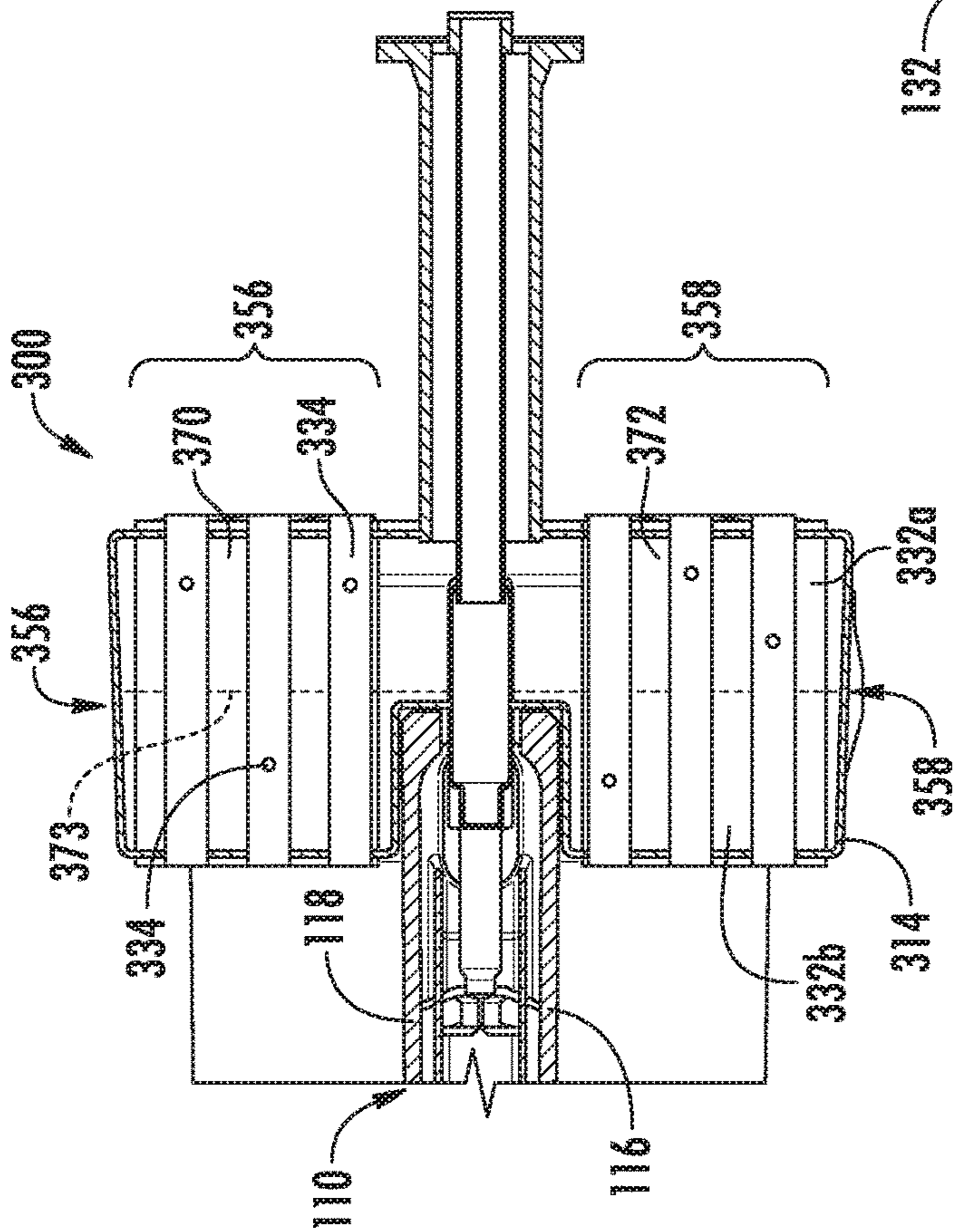


FIG. 18

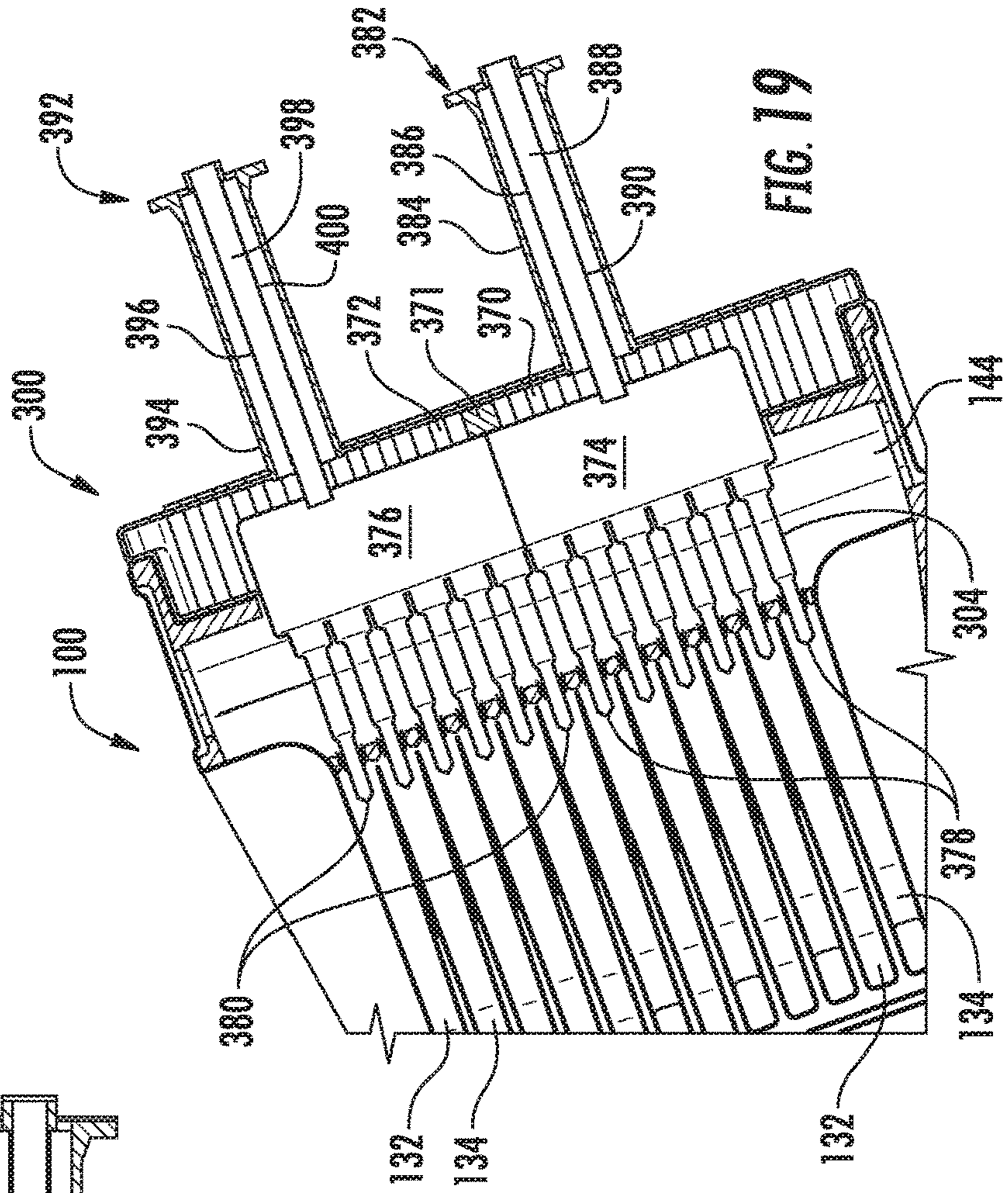


FIG. 19

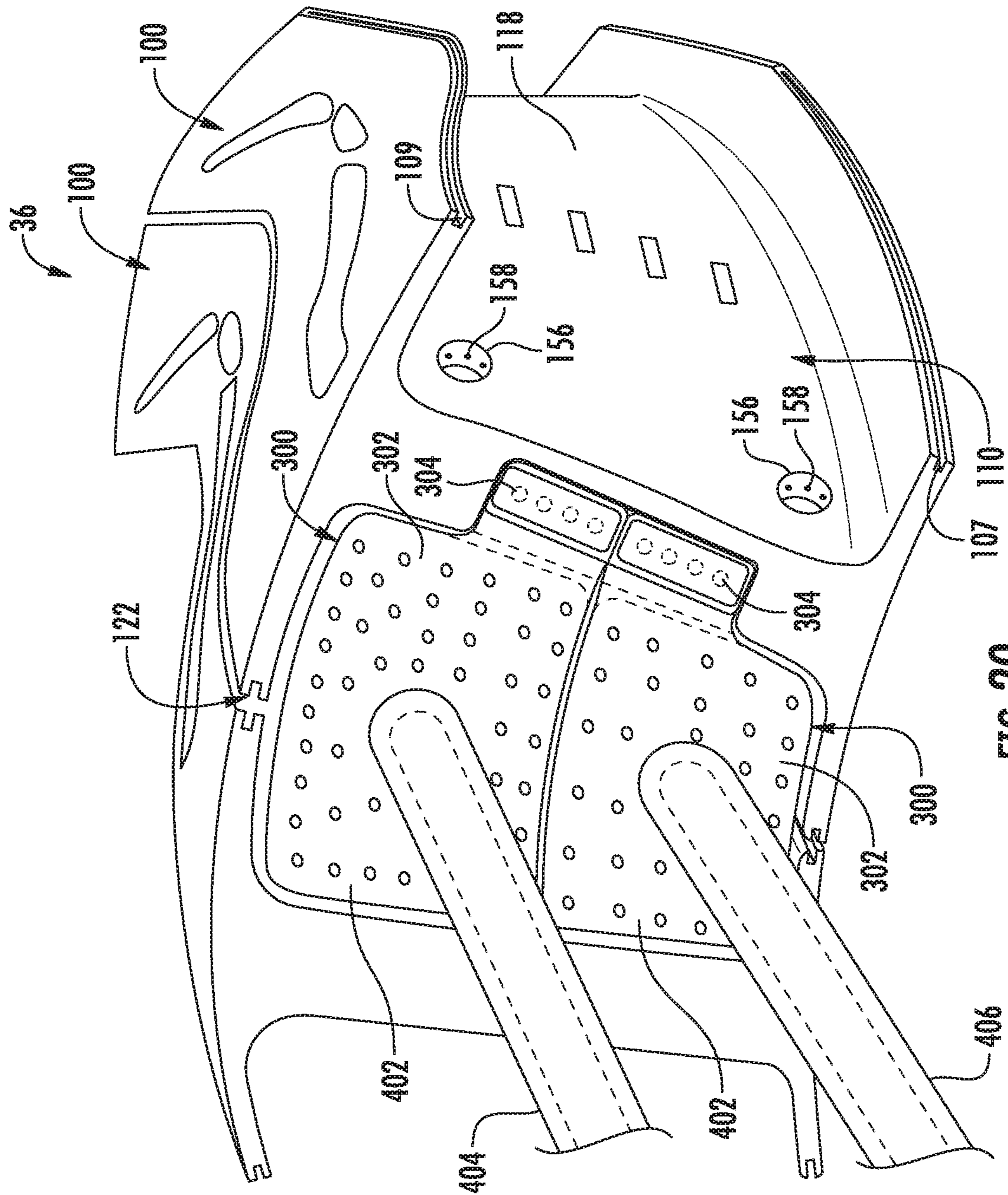


FIG. 20

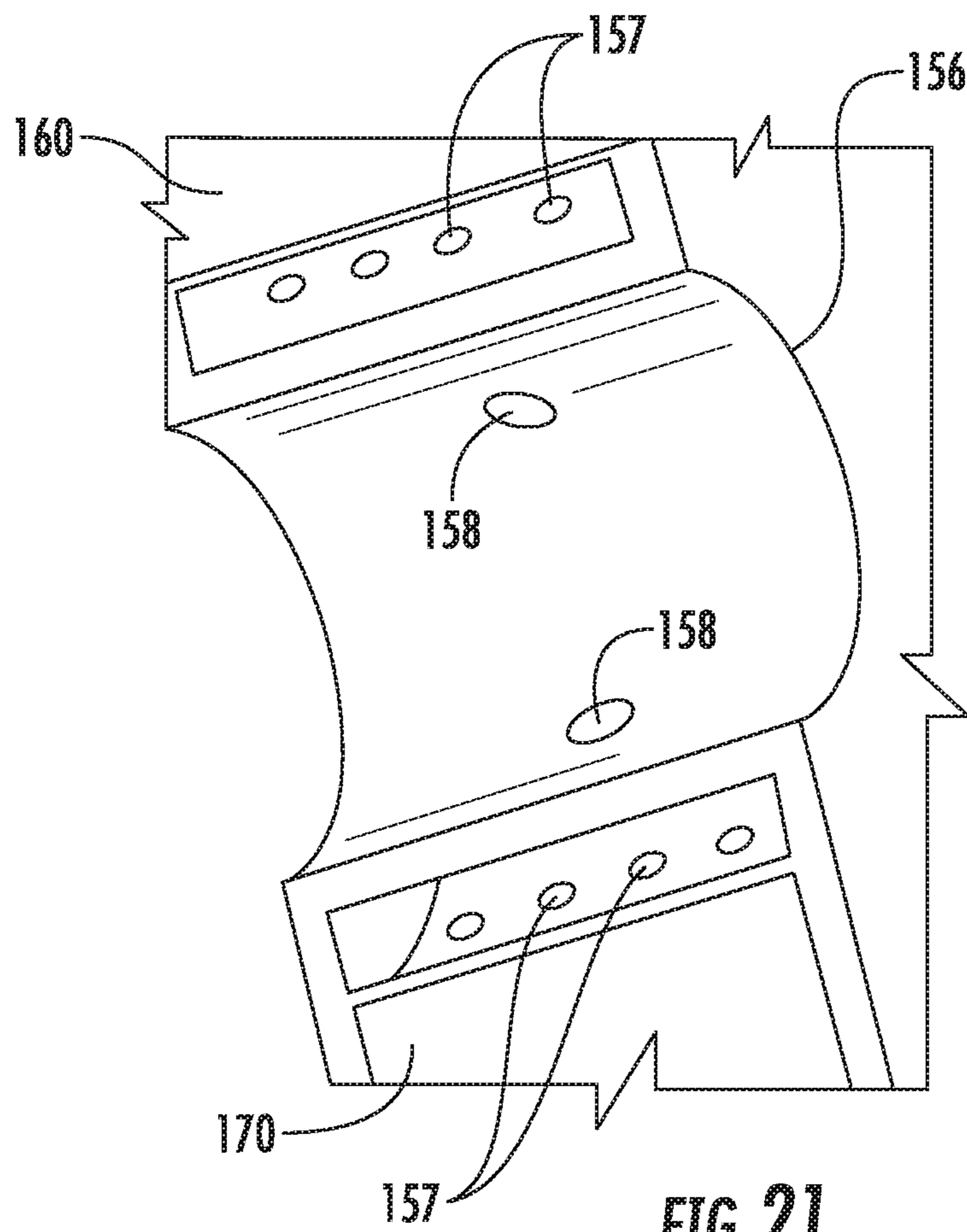


FIG. 21

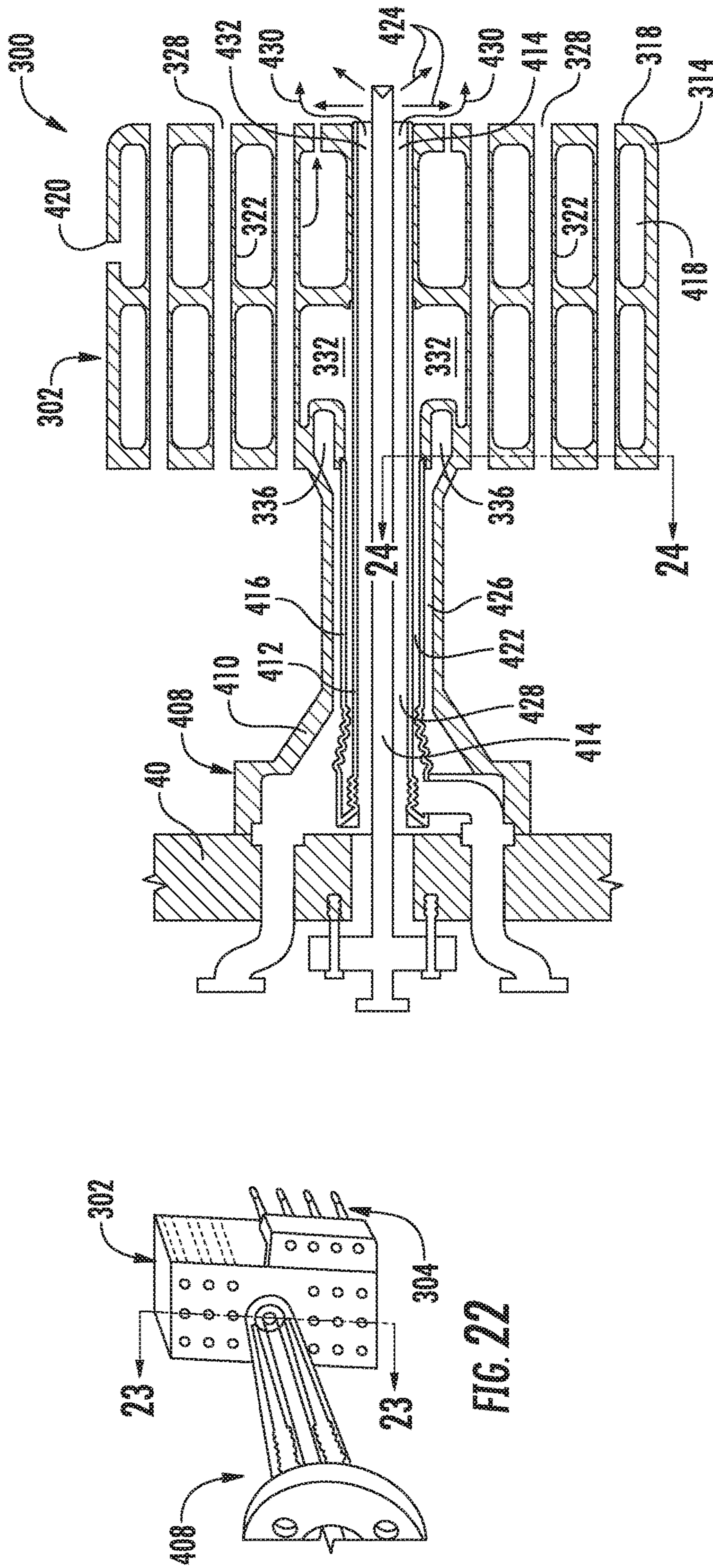


FIG. 22

FIG. 23

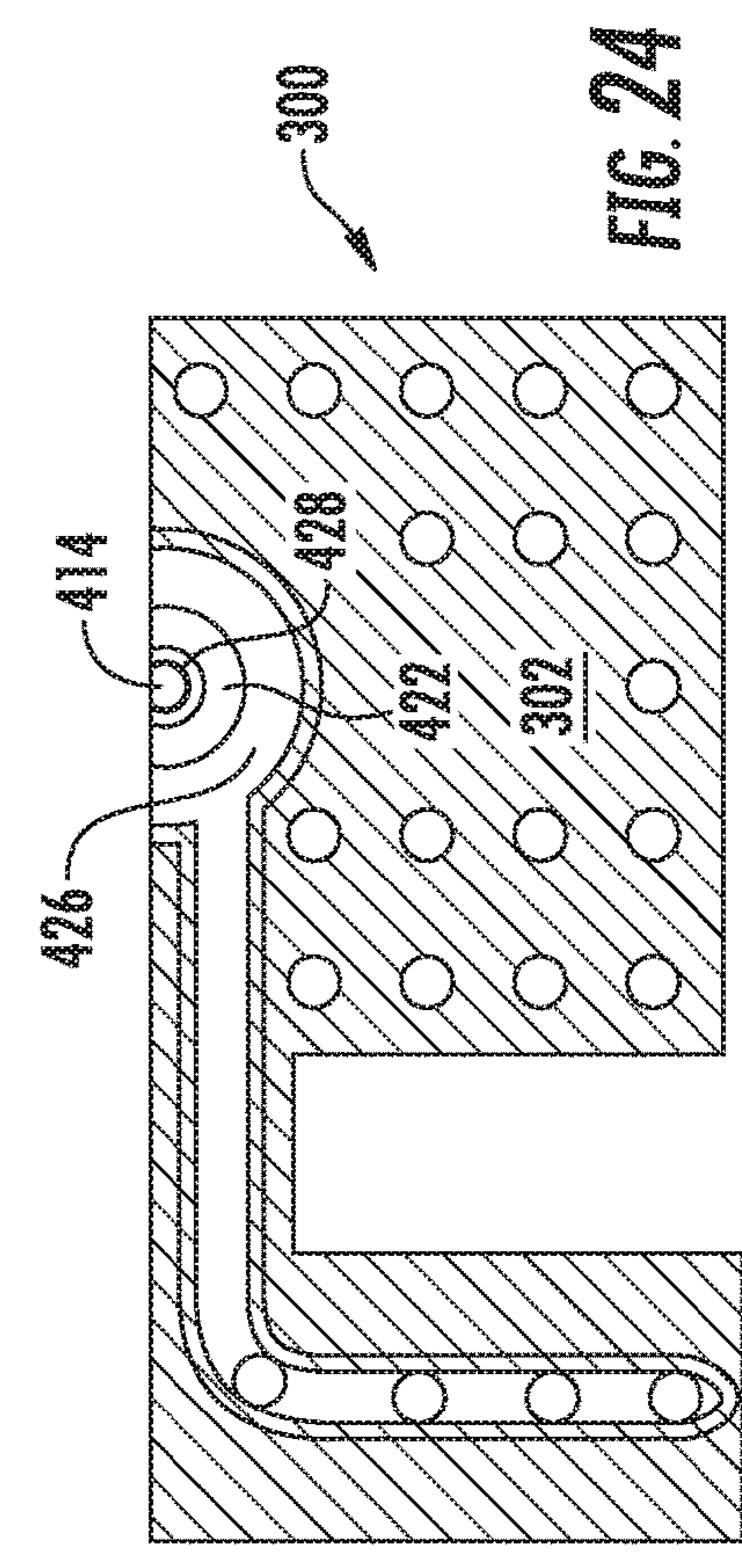


FIG. 24

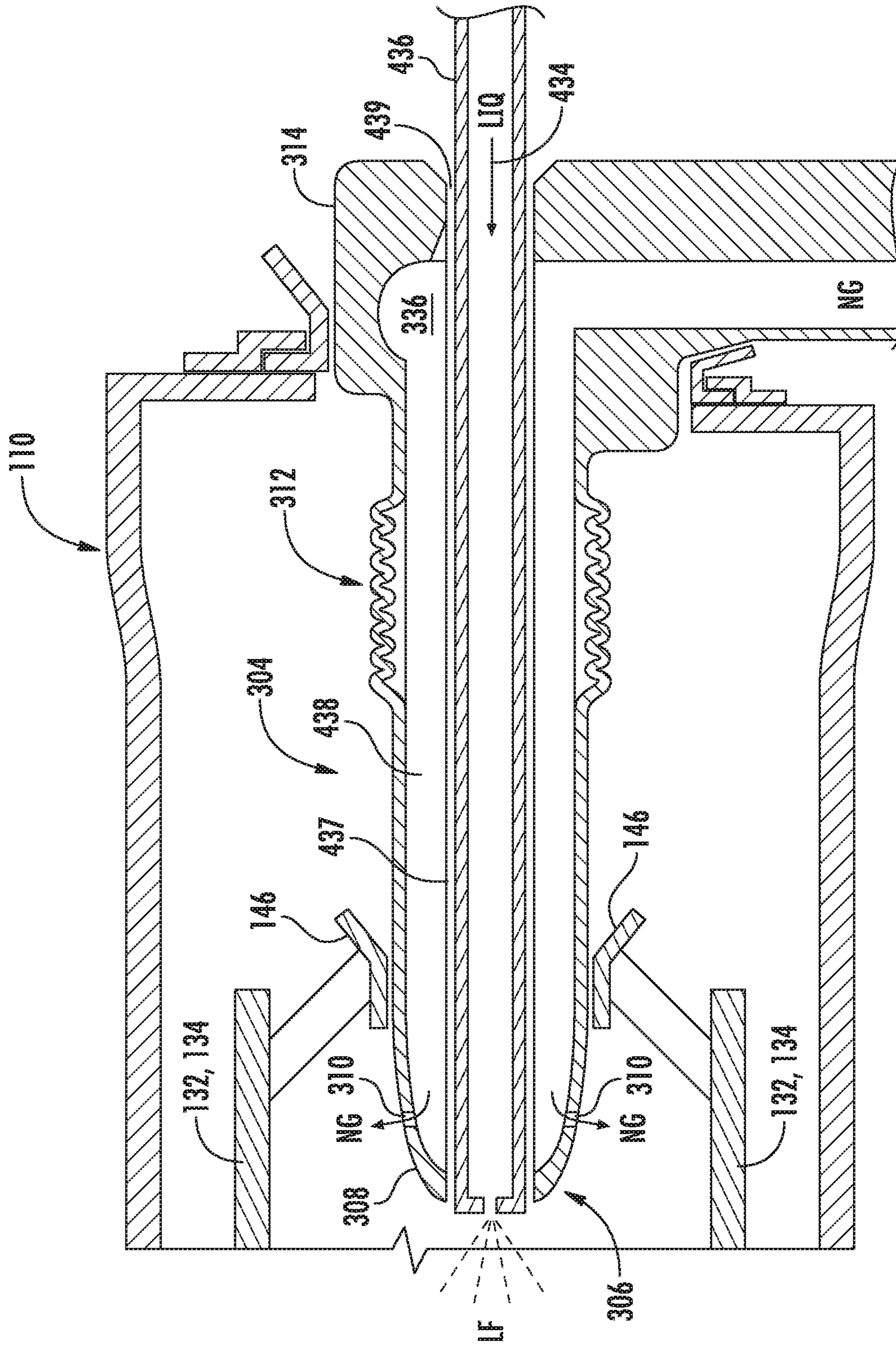


FIG. 25

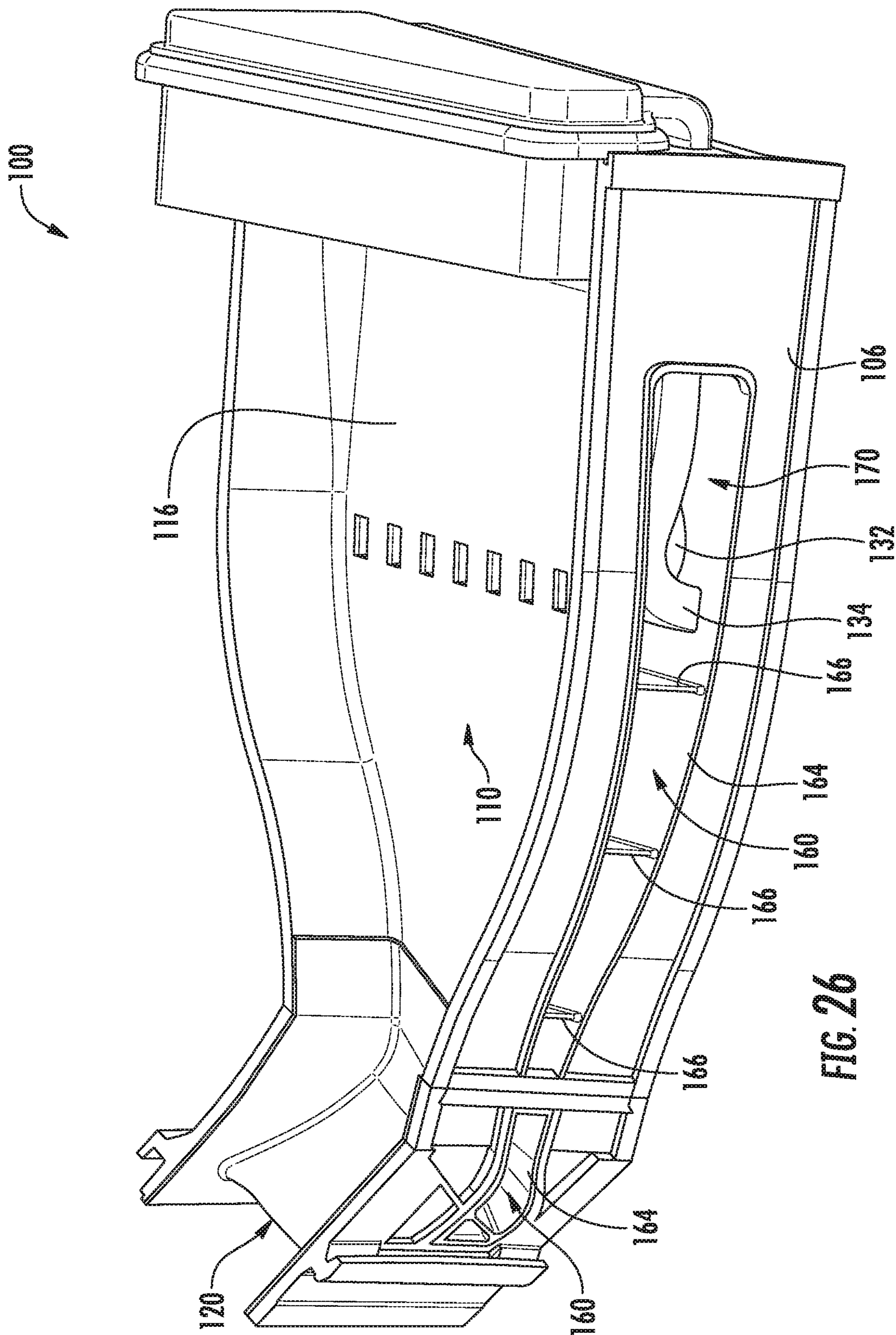
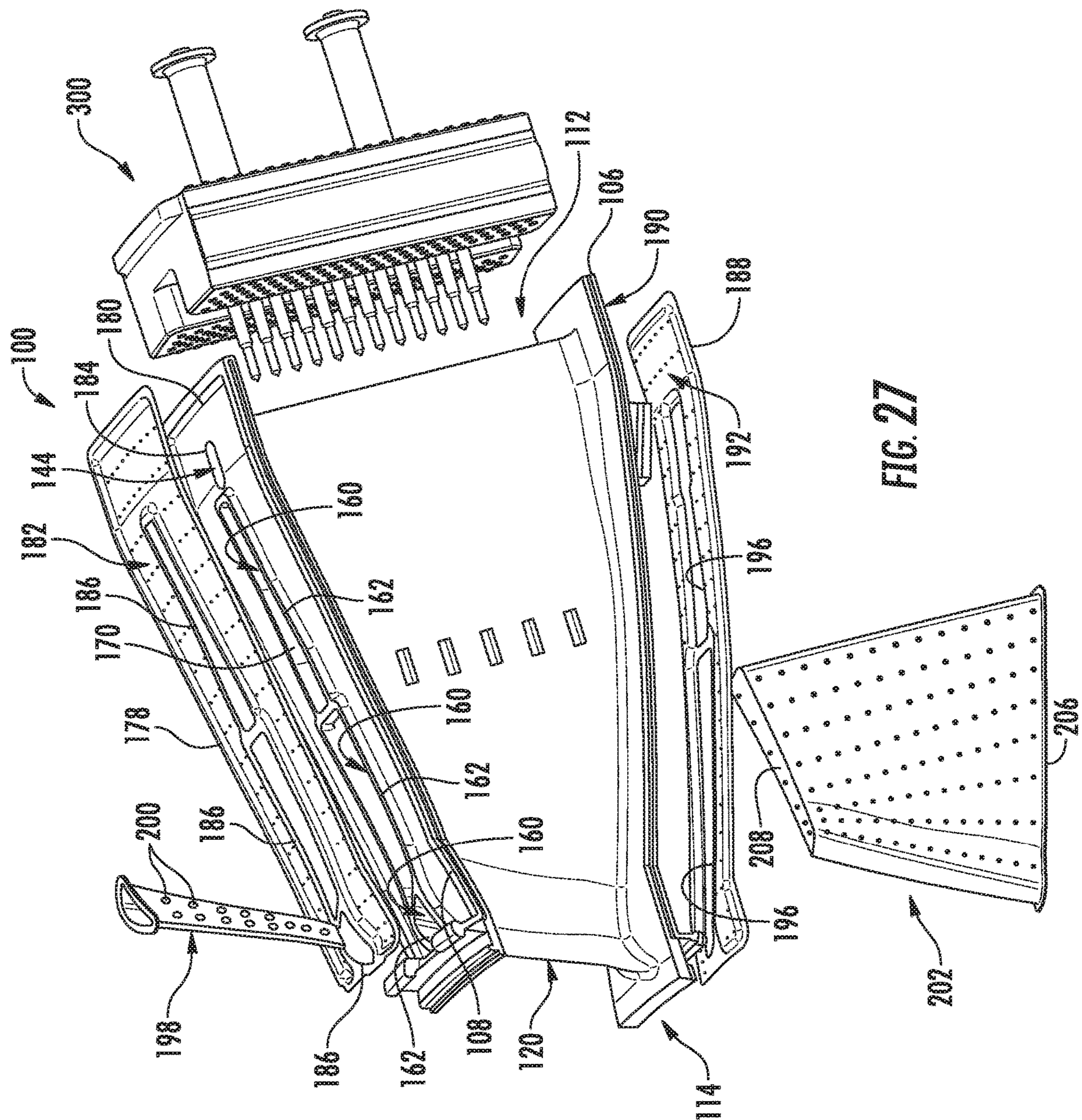
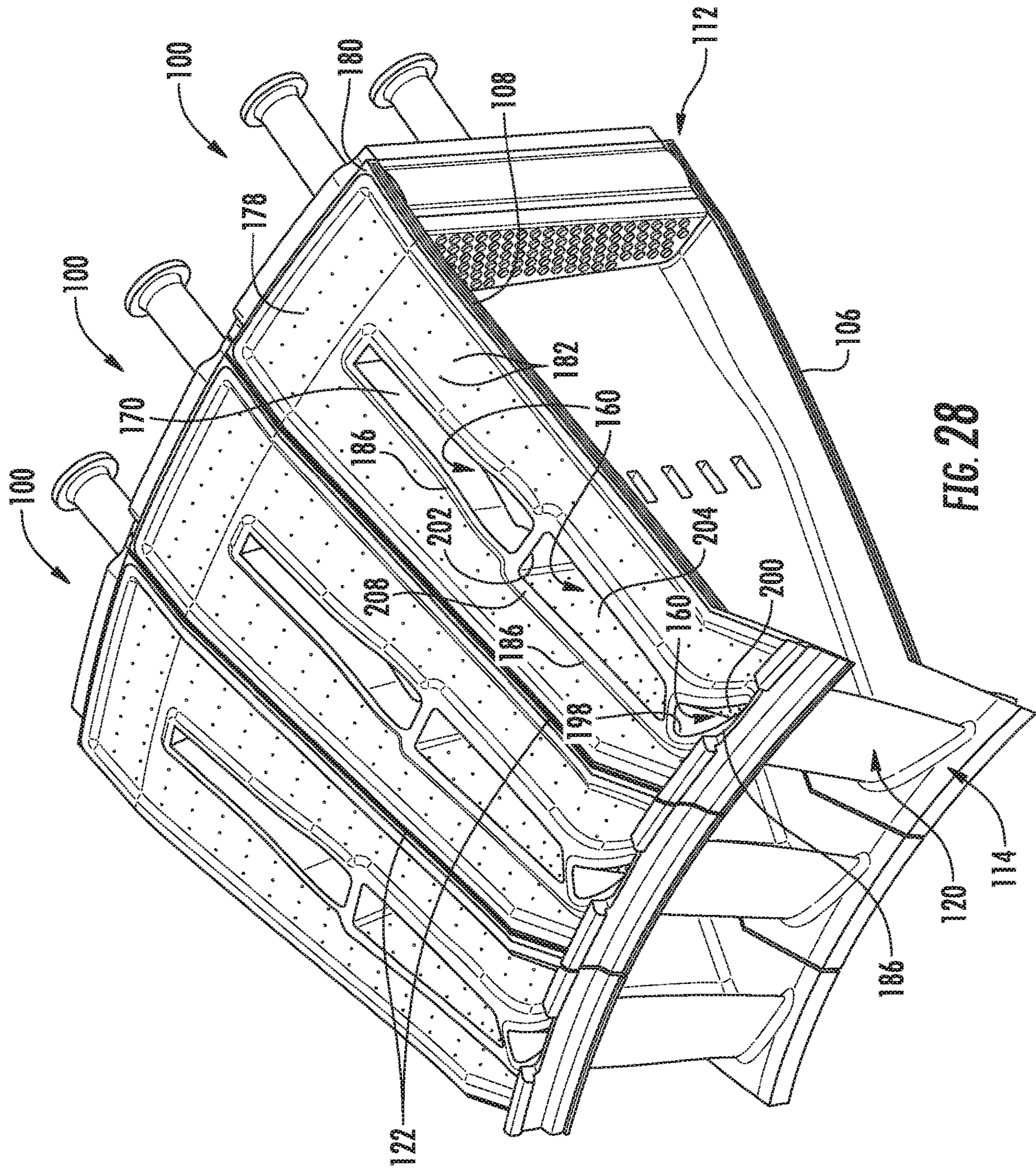


FIG. 26





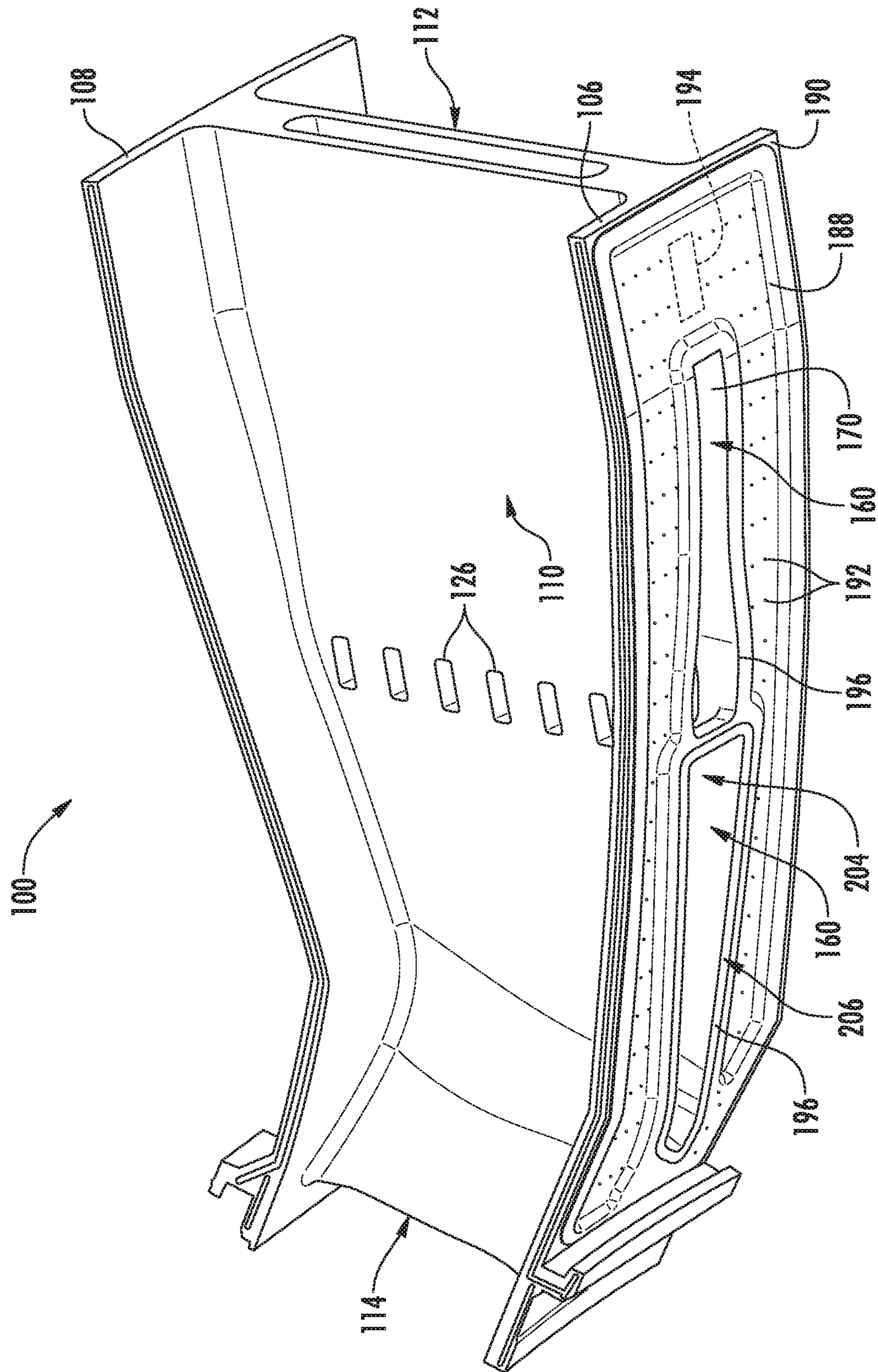
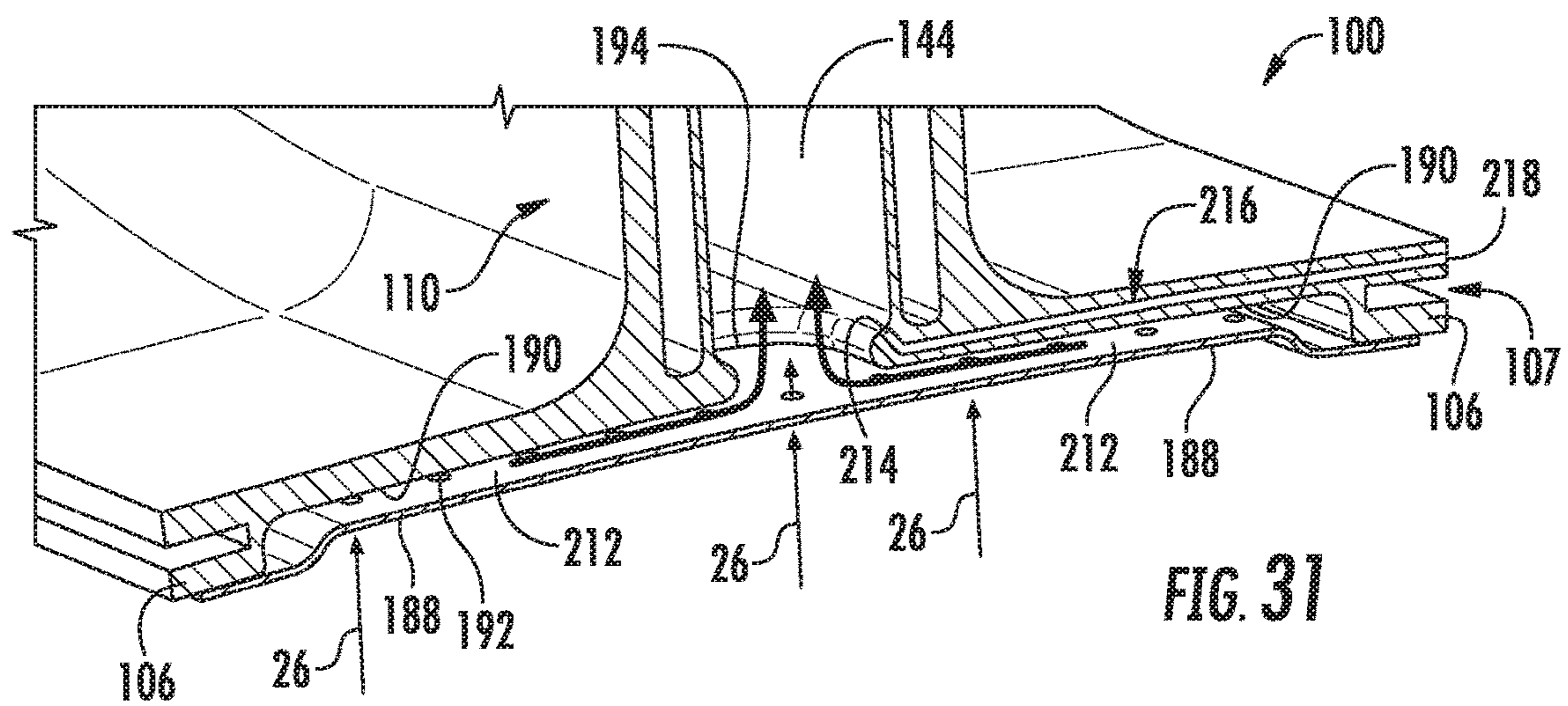
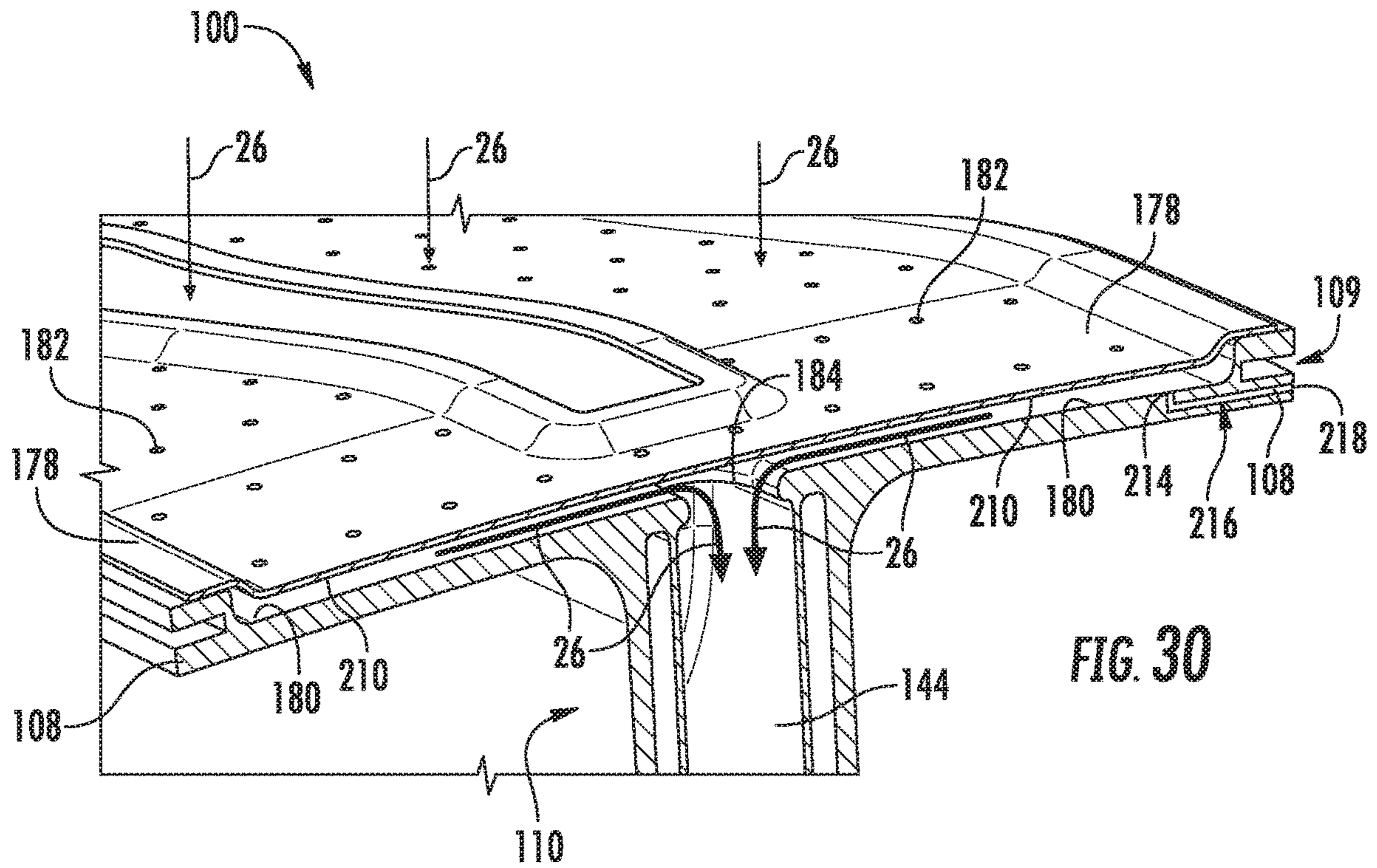


FIG. 29



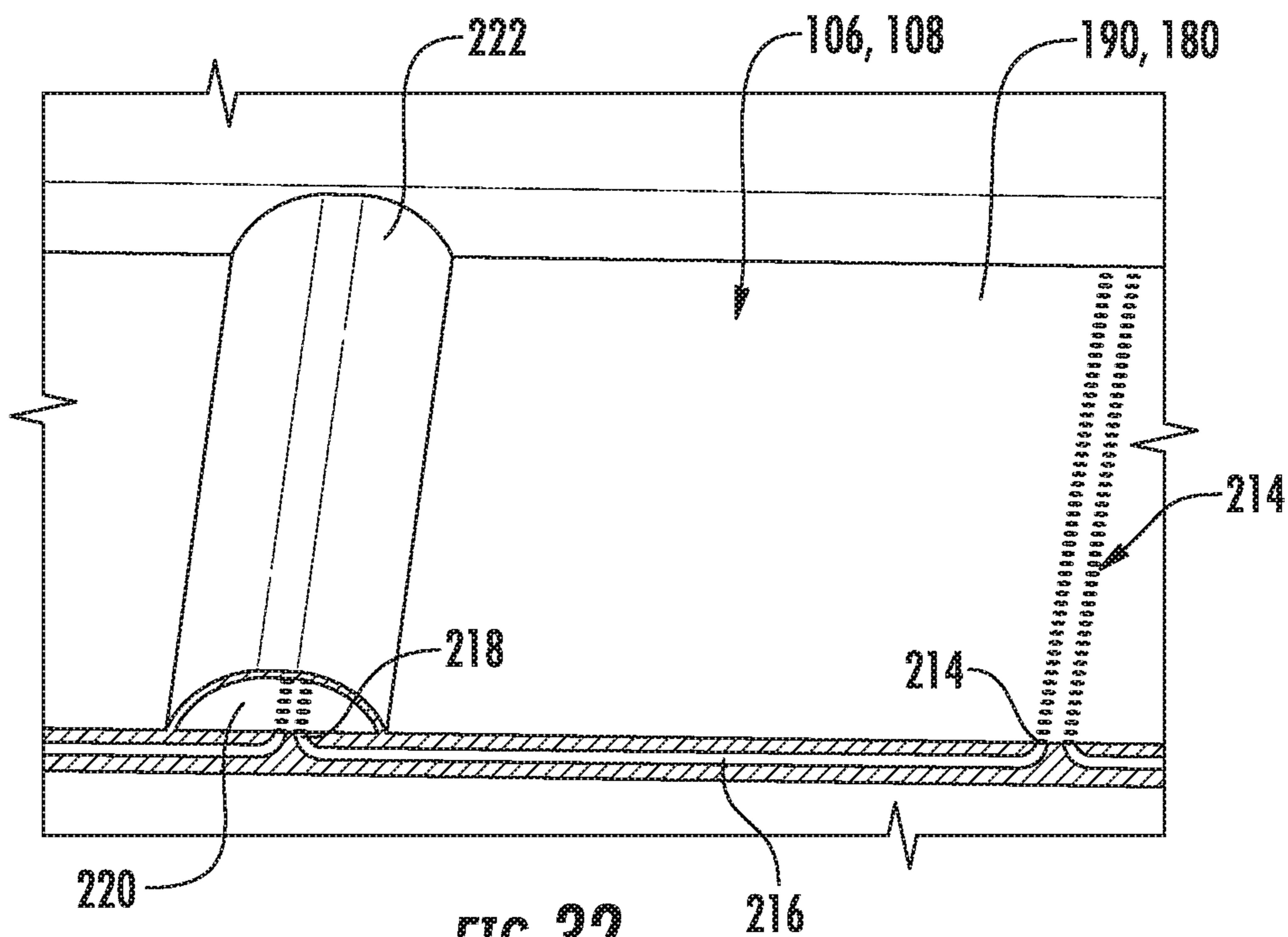


FIG. 32

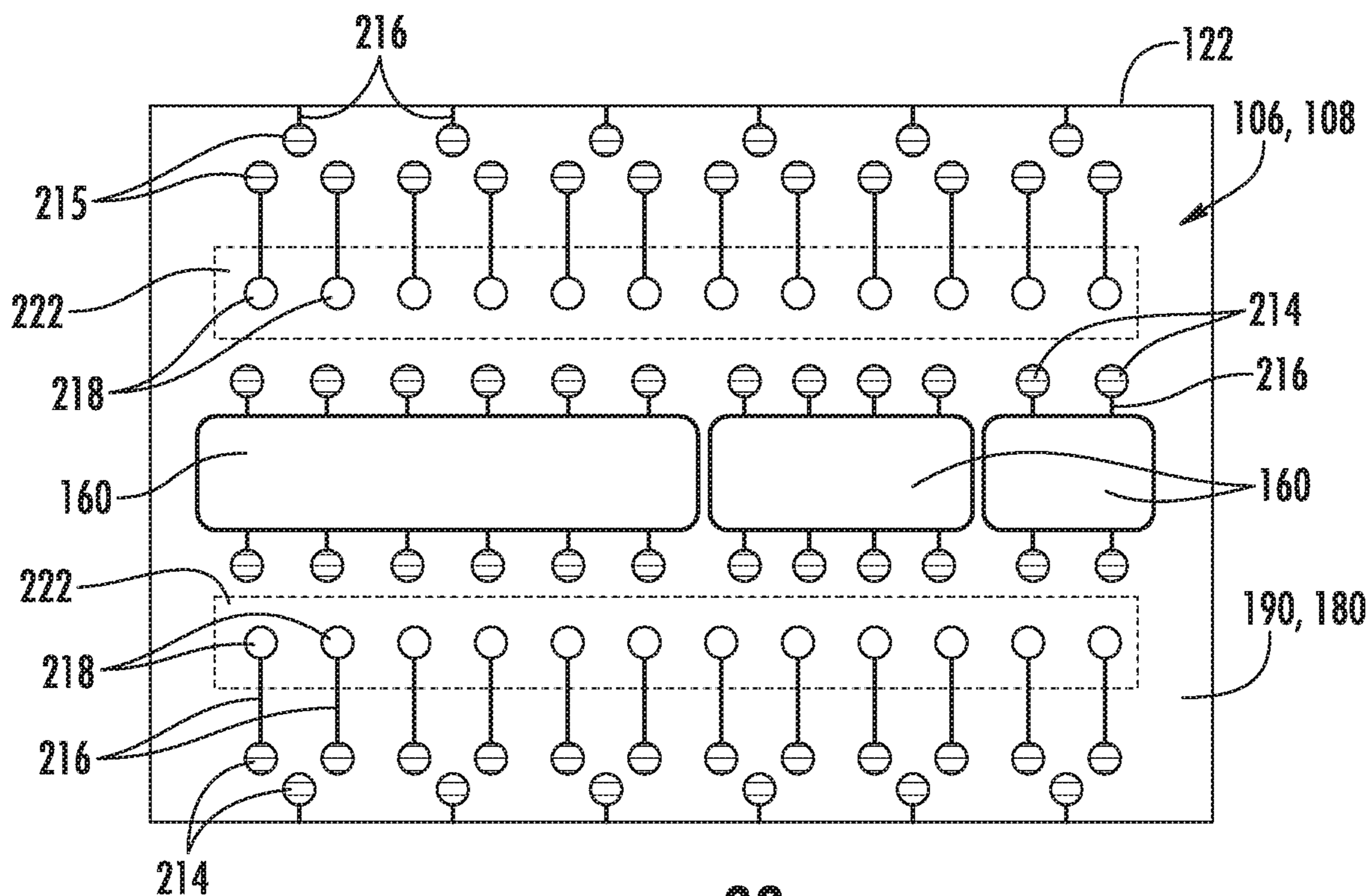


FIG. 33

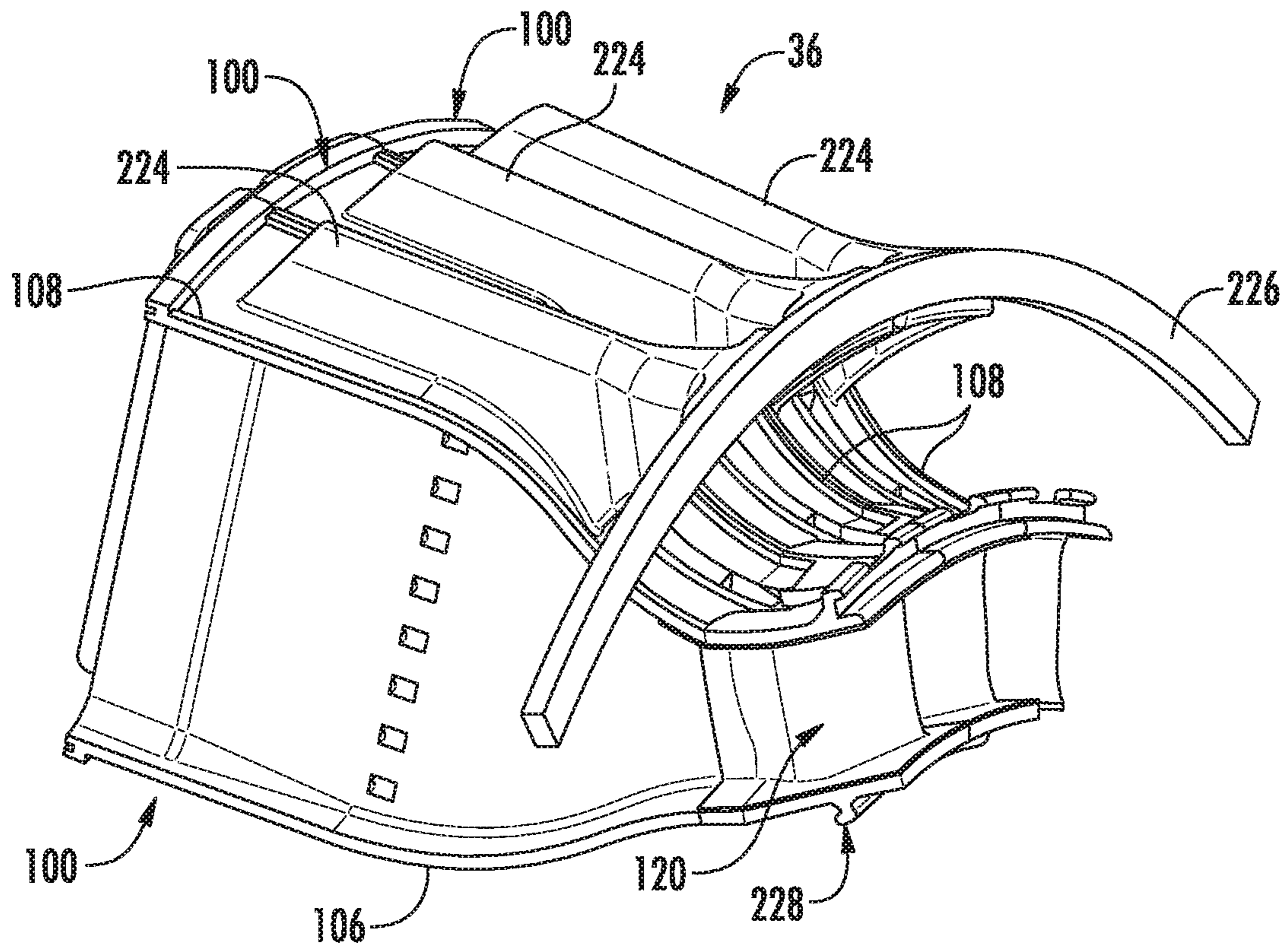


FIG. 34

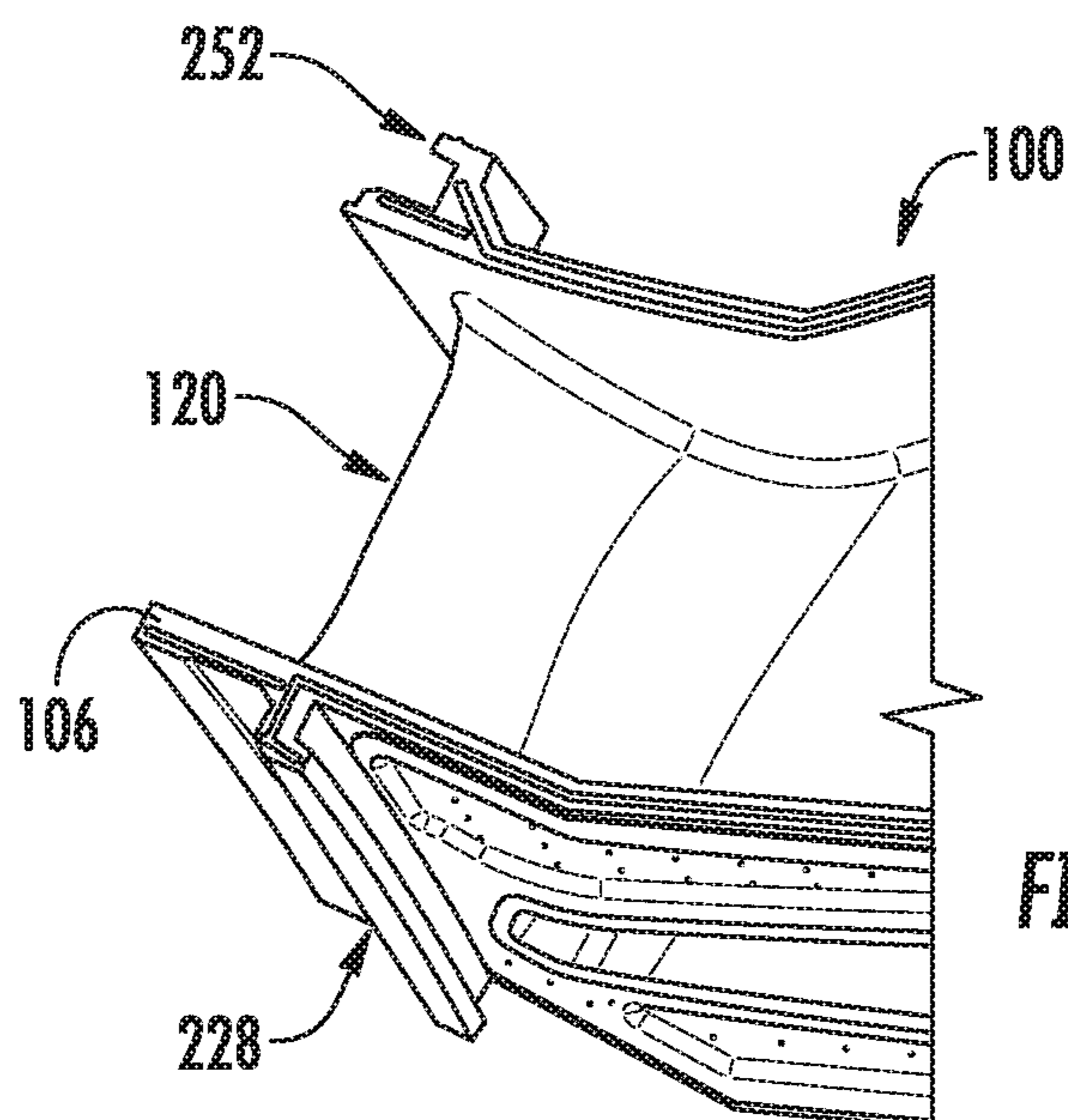
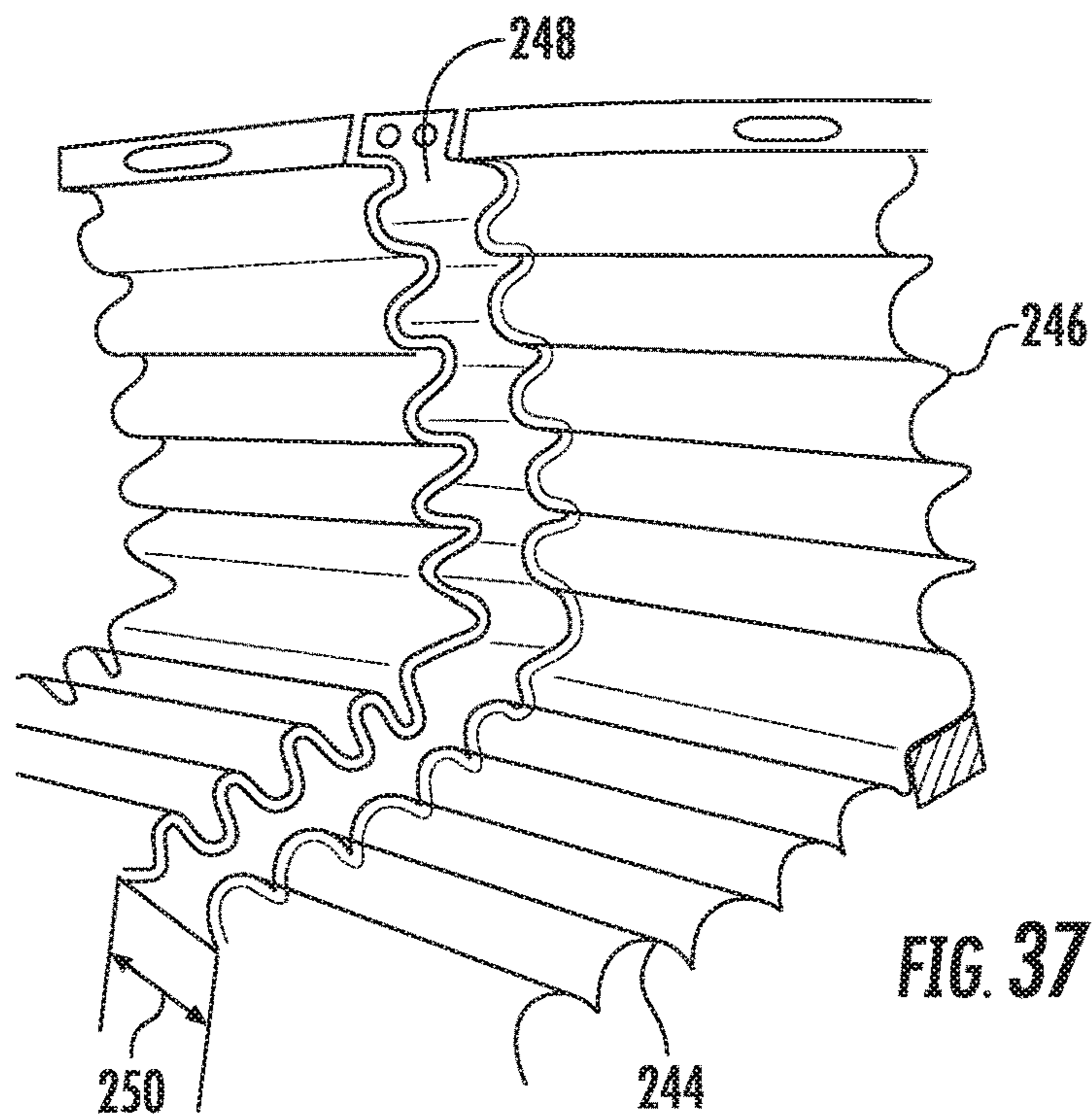
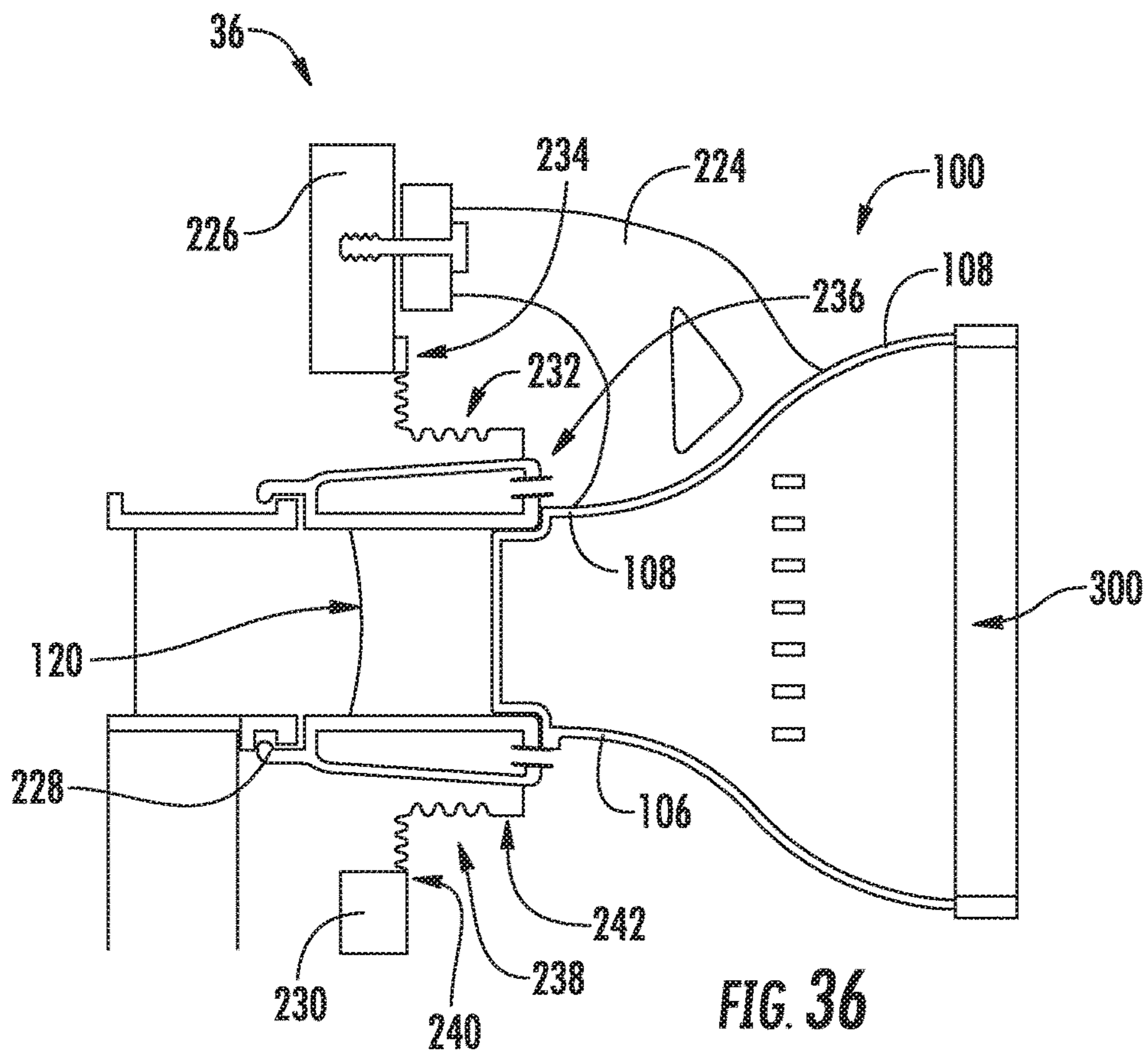
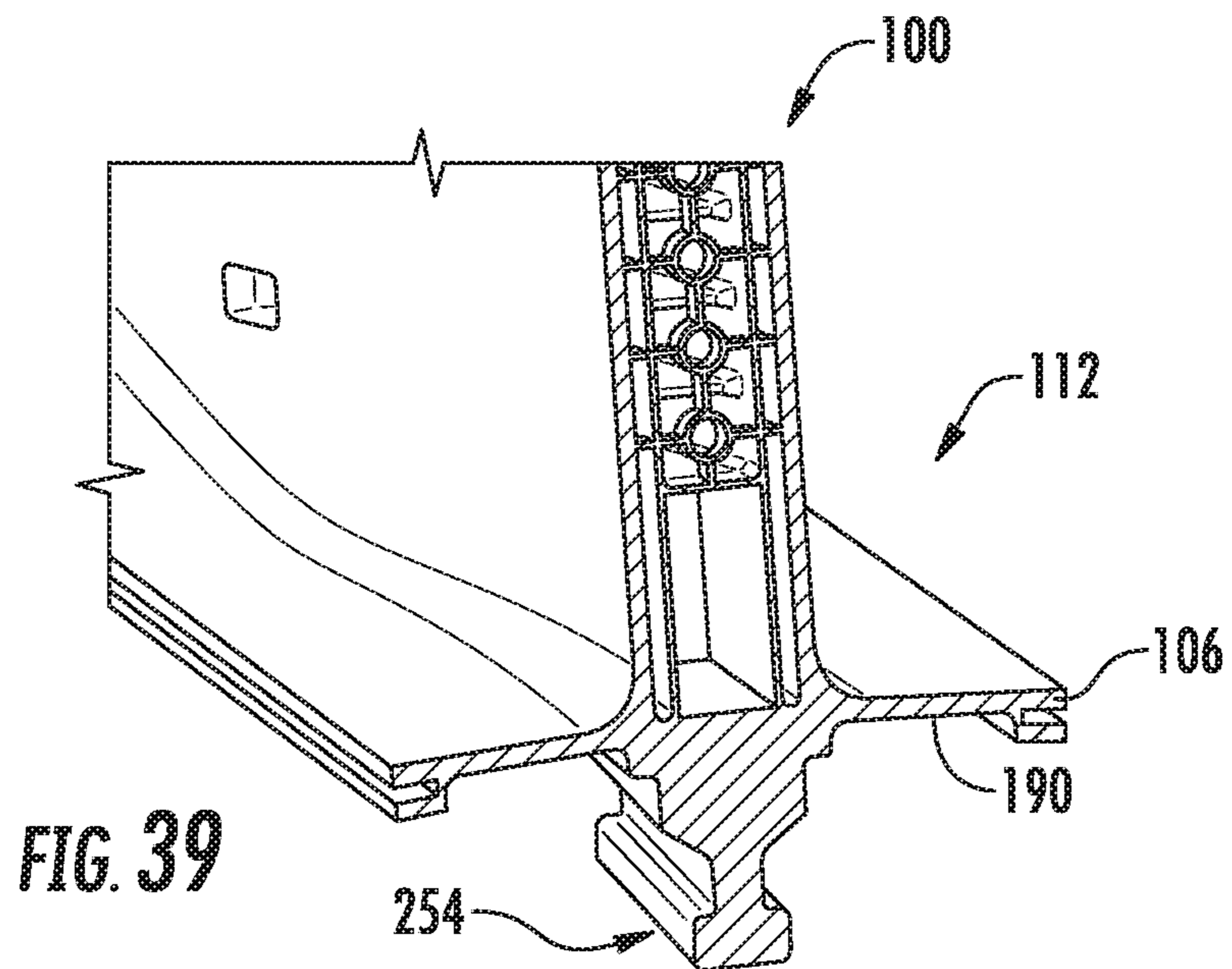
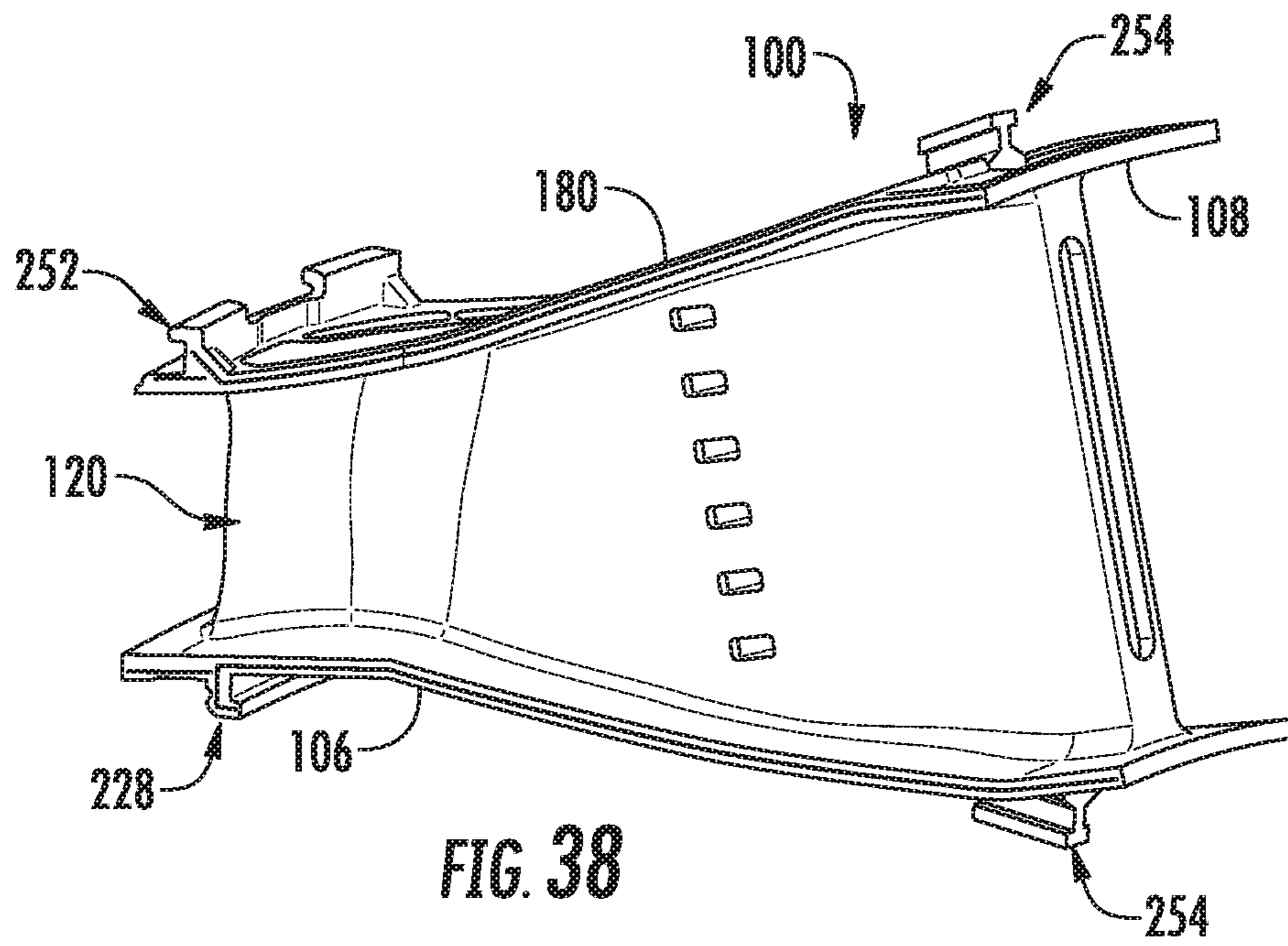
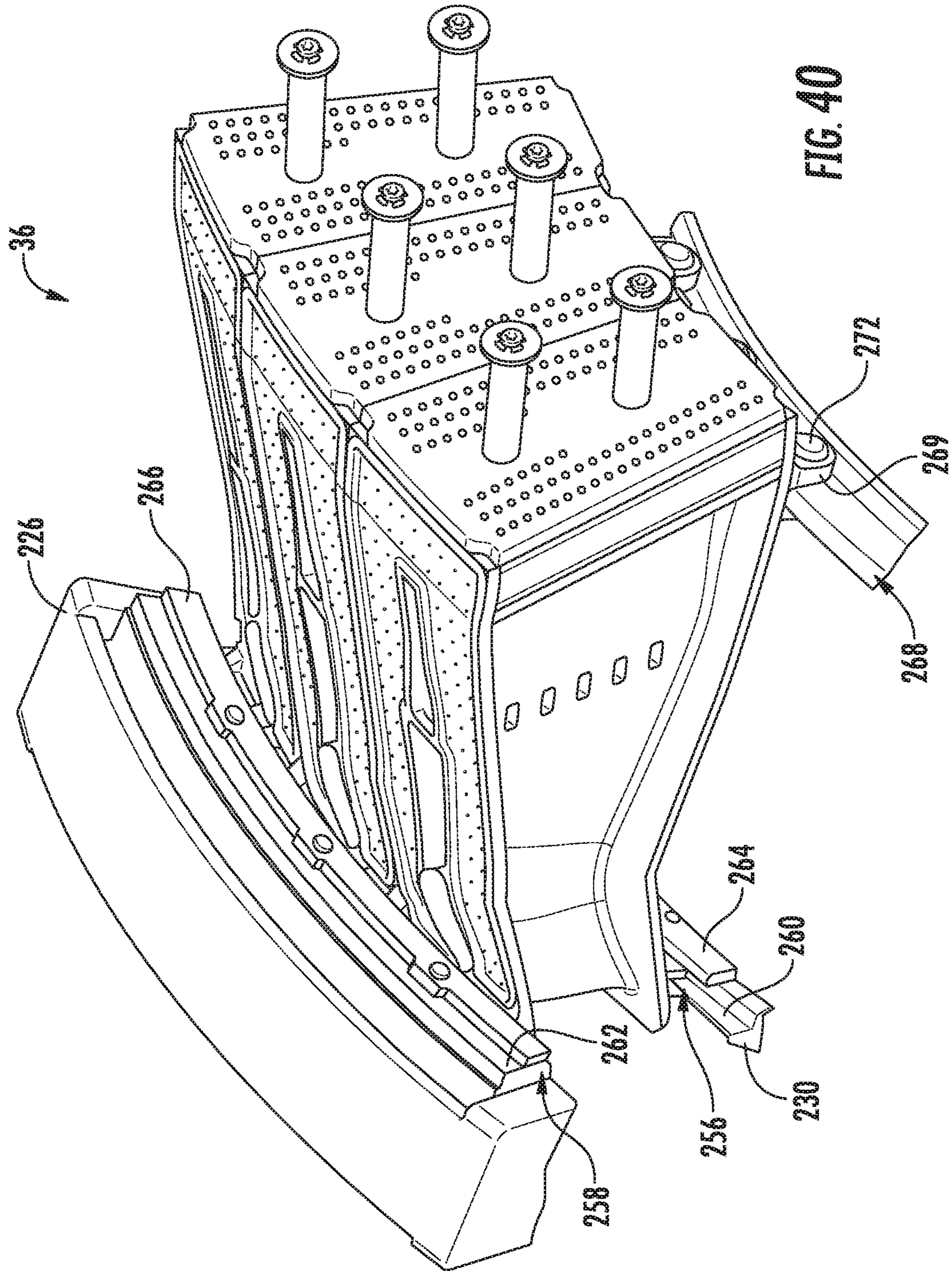
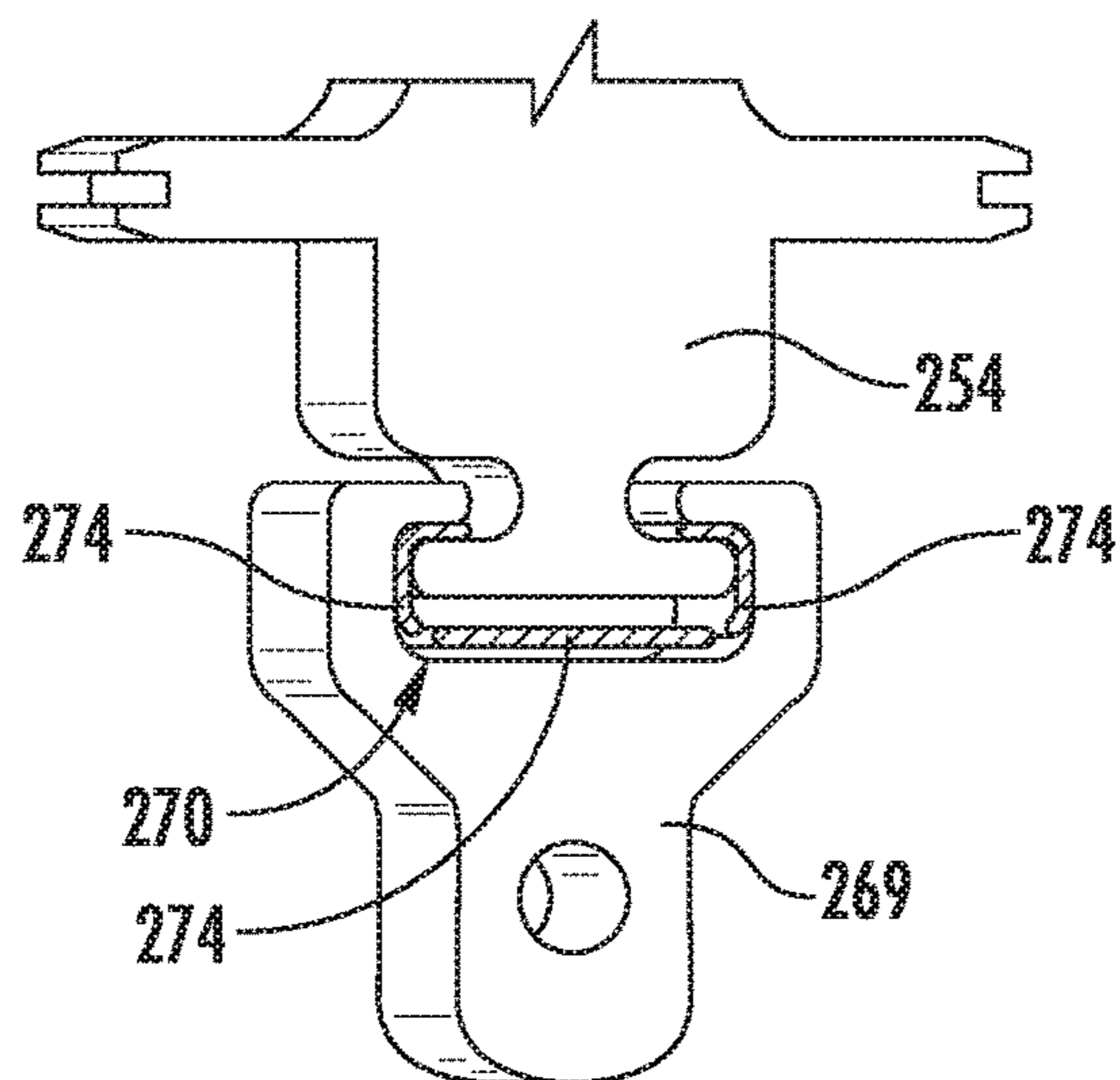
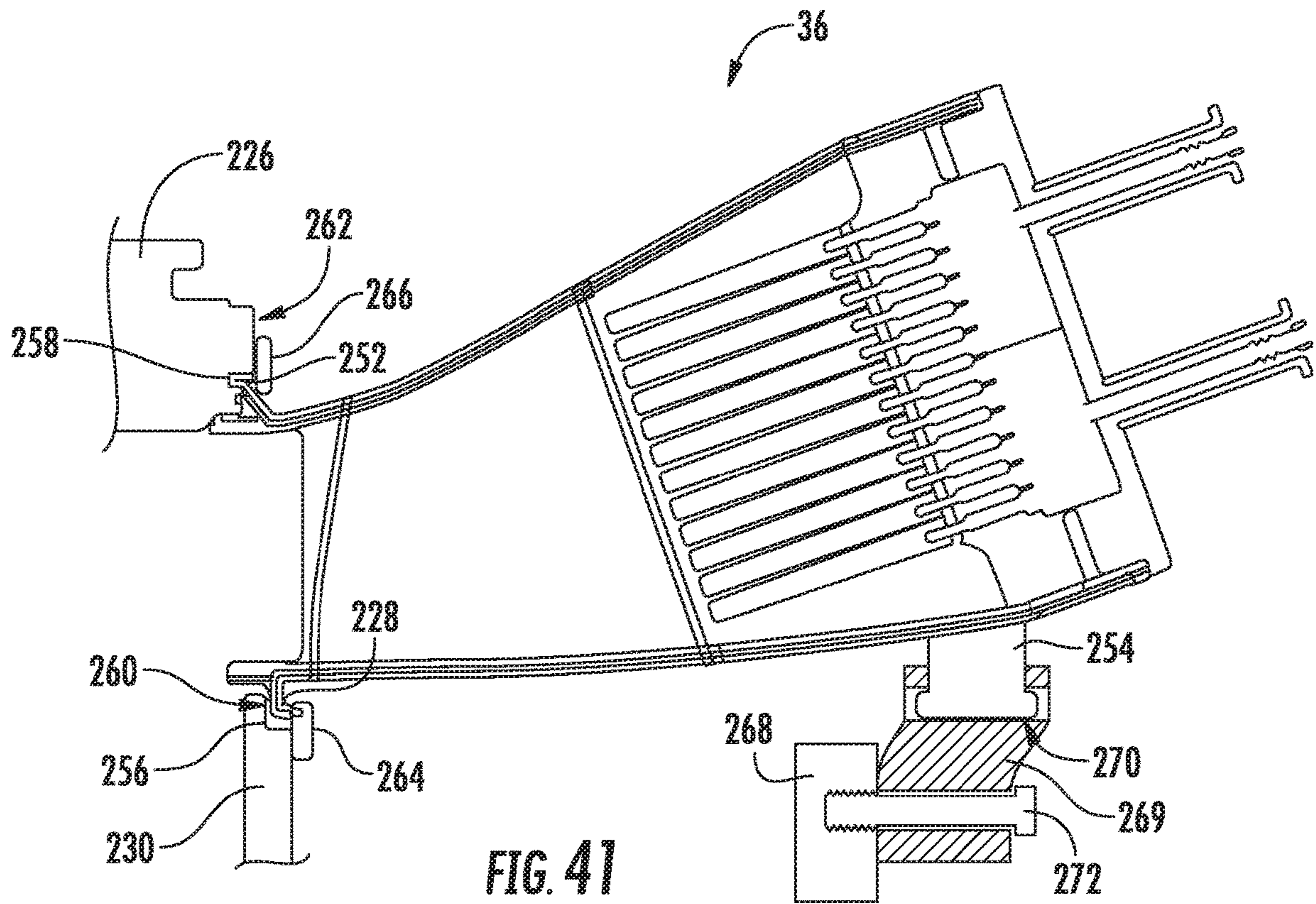


FIG. 35









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**COOLING OF INTEGRATED COMBUSTOR
NOZZLE OF SEGMENTED ANNULAR
COMBUSTION SYSTEM**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS

The present application is a non-provisional application, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 62/313,320, filed Mar. 25, 2016, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY
SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

This invention was made with Government support under Contract No. DE-FE0023965 awarded by the United States Department of Energy. The Government has certain rights in this invention.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The subject matter disclosed herein relates to a segmented annular combustion system for a gas turbine. More specifically, the disclosure is directed to impingement and/or convective cooling of integrated combustion nozzles of a segmented annular combustion system.

BACKGROUND

Industrial gas turbine combustion systems usually burn hydrocarbon fuels and produce air polluting emissions such as oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO). Oxidization of molecular nitrogen in the gas turbine depends upon the temperature of gas located in a combustor, as well as the residence time for reactants located in the highest temperature regions within the combustor. Thus, the amount of NO_x produced by the gas turbine may be reduced or controlled by either maintaining the combustor temperature below a temperature at which NO_x is produced, or by limiting the residence time of the reactant in the combustor.

One approach for controlling the temperature of the combustor involves pre-mixing fuel and air to create a fuel-air mixture prior to combustion. This approach may include the axial staging of fuel injectors where a first fuel-air mixture is injected and ignited at a first or primary combustion zone of the combustor to produce a main flow of high energy combustion gases, and where a second fuel-air mixture is injected into and mixed with the main flow of high energy combustion gases via a plurality of radially oriented and circumferentially spaced fuel injectors or axially staged fuel injector assemblies positioned downstream from the primary combustion zone. The injection of the second fuel-air mixture into the secondary combustion zone is sometimes referred to as a "jet-in-crossflow" arrangement.

Axially staged injection increases the likelihood of complete combustion of available fuel, which in turn reduces the air polluting emissions. However, with conventional axially staged fuel injection combustion systems, there are various challenges with balancing air flow to the various combustor components for cooling, to the head end of the combustor for the first fuel-air mixture, and/or to the axially staged fuel injectors for the second fuel-air mixture, while maintaining emissions compliance over the full range of operation of the

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gas turbine. Therefore, an improved gas turbine combustion system which includes axially staged fuel injection would be useful in the industry.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY

Aspects and advantages are set forth below in the following description, or may be obvious from the description, or may be learned through practice.

Various embodiments of the present disclosure are directed to cooling of integrated combustor nozzles of a segmented annular combustion system. Each integrated combustor nozzle is fluidly coupled to at least one fuel injection module, which includes a fuel nozzle portion and a plurality of fuel injection lances. Each integrated combustor nozzle includes an inner liner segment, an outer liner segment, and one or more hollow or semi-hollow fuel injection panels that extend between the inner liner segment and the outer liner segment. Each fuel injection panel is provided with a plurality of premixing channels therein, which receive fuel from the plurality of fuel injection lances. The fuel nozzle portion introduces a first fuel-air mixture to a primary combustion zone, and the fuel injection panel introduces a second fuel-air mixture into a secondary combustion zone axially downstream of the first combustion zone. The arrangement of the integrated combustor nozzles and fuel injection modules defines an annular array of primary combustion zones and secondary combustion zones.

In at least one embodiment, a downstream end portion of each fuel injection panel transitions into a turbine nozzle portion or airfoil that is seamlessly integrated with the fuel injection panel. As such, each fuel injection panel may be considered an airfoil without a leading edge. In particular embodiments, the turbine nozzle portion is at least partially wrapped or sheathed by a thermal shield or cover. In particular embodiments, a portion of the turbine nozzle portion (e.g., the trailing edge) and/or the shield may be formed from a ceramic matrix composite material.

In particular embodiments, air from a compressor discharge casing enters each fuel injection panel via openings defined along the respective inner liner segment and/or the outer liner segment. In one embodiment, an interior of each fuel injection panel may be partitioned into different sections or cavities for cooling. The partitions in the fuel injection panels may include apertures that permit air flowing into one area or cavity to be directed through other areas or cavities. In particular embodiments, the air travels upstream to a head end plenum or premix air cavity defined within the integrated combustor nozzle where the air enters at least one of a pressure side premixing channel or a suction side premixing channel, which is defined within the respective fuel injection panel for mixing with a fuel provided by a corresponding one of the fuel injector lances.

In one embodiment, impingement panels are welded, or otherwise attached, to outer surfaces of the inner liner segment and the outer liner segment. Air from the compressor discharge casing flows through impingement holes in the inner and outer impingement panels to impinge on the inner and outer liner segments, respectively, and travels through a respective cooling gap or annulus defined between the respective impingement panel and the inner liner segment or the outer liner segment. The air, which has impinged on the liner segments, is directed into an opening at the forward end or the head end of the fuel injection panel. The air then flows into the pressure side premixing channels and/or the suction side premixing channels where it is mixed with fuel to form a combustible mixture.

In particular embodiments, a first impingement air insert is positioned within the turbine nozzle portion of the integrated combustor nozzle such that air flows through an opening in the outer liner segment into the insert, where it impinges on the interior surfaces of the turbine nozzle portion. In particular embodiments, a second impingement air insert is positioned in an aft portion of the fuel injection panel, which is defined downstream of the pressure side and/or suction side injection outlets. The second impingement air insert may be open on both a radially inner side and a radially outer side to allow air from the compressor discharge casing to flow through both the inner and outer liner segments and to impinge on an interior surface of the aft portion of the fuel injection panel. Air that passes through the second impingement air insert may be mixed with air flowing within the compressor discharge casing towards the bundled tube fuel nozzle portion of each of the fuel injection modules, where it may be mixed with fuel. In various embodiments, the air from the compressor discharge casing may flow into the premixing channel air cavity for cooling the pressure side and the suction side premixing channels.

In other embodiments, the impingement panels are replaced by cooling sleeves that are welded, or otherwise joined, to the outer surfaces of the inner liner segment and the outer liner segment. Air from the compressor discharge casing enters cooling inlets at the aft end of a respective sleeve and travels through a cooling gap or annulus between the respective sleeve and liner segment, thereby convectively cooling the liner segment. Air travels through the annulus to an inlet of the head end plenum, where it may be directed into the bundled tube fuel nozzle and/or the premixing channels and be mixed with fuel.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will better appreciate the features and aspects of such embodiments, and others, upon review of the specification.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A full and enabling disclosure of the various embodiments, including the best mode known at the time of filing, is set forth more particularly in the remainder of the specification, including reference to the accompanying figures, in which:

FIG. 1 is a functional block diagram of an exemplary gas turbine that may incorporate various embodiments of the present disclosure;

FIG. 2 is an upstream view of an exemplary combustion section of a gas turbine, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 3 is a partially exploded perspective view of a pressure side of a portion of an exemplary segmented annular combustion system, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 4 is a partially exploded perspective view of a suction side of a portion of an exemplary segmented annular combustion system, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectioned view of a pressure side of an exemplary combustor nozzle and a corresponding fuel injection module, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 6 provides a cross-sectioned perspective view of the combustor nozzle, as taken along line 6-6 of FIG. 5, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 7 provides a cross-sectioned perspective view of the combustor nozzle, as taken along line 7-7 of FIG. 5, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 8 provides a cross-sectioned view of the combustor nozzle, as taken along line 8-8 of FIG. 5, according to at least one embodiment;

FIG. 9 provides a cross-sectioned downstream perspective view of an exemplary combustor nozzle, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 10 provides an enlarged view of a portion of an exemplary fuel injection panel as shown in FIG. 9, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 11 provides an overhead (top down) cross-sectioned view of a portion of an exemplary fuel injection panel with an exemplary fuel injection lance, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 12 provides an overhead (top down) cross-sectioned view of a portion of an exemplary fuel injection panel with a pair of exemplary fuel injection lances, according to another embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 13 provides a downstream perspective view of an exemplary fuel injection module inserted into a portion of an exemplary combustor nozzle, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 14 provides an upstream perspective view of the fuel injection module as shown in FIG. 13, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 15 provides an upstream perspective view of the fuel injection module, according to another embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 16 provides an upstream perspective view of an alternate fuel injection module, according to another embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 17 provides a downstream perspective view of three fuel injection modules (as shown in FIG. 15) mounted to three circumferentially adjacent combustor nozzles, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 18 provides a cross-sectioned top view of a portion of the integrated combustor nozzle, which includes a portion of a fuel injection panel and a fuel injection module as shown in FIG. 17, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 19 provides a cross-sectioned side view of the embodiment of the fuel injection module illustrated in FIG. 15, as installed into an exemplary combustor nozzle, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 20 provides a downstream perspective view of a portion of an exemplary segmented annular combustion system including a pair of circumferentially adjacent combustor nozzles and a pair of radially mounted fuel injection modules, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 21 provides a perspective view of a portion of a cross-fire tube, as shown incorporated in the combustor nozzle of FIG. 20;

FIG. 22 provides a downstream perspective view of an exemplary fuel injection module, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 23 provides a cross-sectioned side view of an exemplary fuel injection module configured for both gas fuel and liquid fuel operation, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 24 provides a cross-sectioned view of a portion of the fuel injection module shown in FIG. 23, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 25 provides a top down cross-sectioned view of a portion of an exemplary fuel injection panel shown in FIG. 17 with an exemplary fuel injection lance, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

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FIG. 26 provides a bottom side perspective view of an exemplary combustor nozzle, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 27 provides an exploded perspective view of an exemplary combustor nozzle, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 28 provides a top view of three assembled exemplary combustor nozzles, as shown in exploded view in FIG. 27, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 29 provides an assembled bottom view of the combustor nozzle as shown in exploded view in FIG. 27, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 30 provides an enlarged view of a first (radially outer) portion of the exemplary combustor nozzle as shown in FIG. 29, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 31 provides an enlarged view of a second (radially inner) portion of the exemplary combustor nozzle as shown in FIG. 29, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 32 provides a portion of either an inner liner segment or an outer liner segment of a combustor nozzle, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 33 provides a portion of either an inner liner segment or an outer liner segment of a combustor nozzle, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 34 provides a suction side perspective view of a portion of an exemplary segmented annular combustion system, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 35 provides a bottom perspective view of a portion of the combustor nozzle as shown in FIG. 34, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 36 provides a cross-sectioned side view of an exemplary combustor nozzle mounted within the segmented annular combustion system, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 37 provides a perspective view of a pair of circumferentially adjacent double bellows seals, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 38 provides a pressure side perspective view of an exemplary combustor nozzle, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 39 provides a cross-sectioned perspective view of a portion of the combustor nozzle as shown in FIG. 38, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 40 provides a perspective view of a portion of a segmented annular combustion system, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 41 provides a cross-sectioned side view of the portion of the segmented annular combustion system shown in FIG. 40, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure; and

FIG. 42 provides a cross-sectioned downstream perspective view of an exemplary tenon mounted within a tenon mount, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference will now be made in detail to various embodiments of the present disclosure, one or more examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. The detailed description uses numerical and letter designations to refer to features in the drawings. Like or similar designations

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in the drawings and description have been used to refer to like or similar parts of the disclosure.

As used herein, the terms “first”, “second”, and “third” may be used interchangeably to distinguish one component from another and are not intended to signify location or importance of the individual components. The terms “upstream” and “downstream” refer to the relative direction with respect to fluid flow in a fluid pathway. For example, “upstream” refers to the direction from which the fluid flows, and “downstream” refers to the direction to which the fluid flows. The term “radially” refers to the relative direction that is substantially perpendicular to an axial centerline of a particular component, the term “axially” refers to the relative direction that is substantially parallel and/or coaxially aligned to an axial centerline of a particular component, and the term “circumferentially” refers to the relative direction that extends around the axial centerline of a particular component.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting. As used herein, the singular forms “a”, “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms “comprises” and/or “comprising,” when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

Each example is provided by way of explanation, not limitation. In fact, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that modifications and variations can be made without departing from the scope or spirit thereof. For instance, features illustrated or described as part of one embodiment may be used on another embodiment to yield a still further embodiment. Thus, it is intended that the present disclosure covers such modifications and variations as come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

Although exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure will be described generally in the context of a segmented annular combustion system for a land-based power-generating gas turbine for purposes of illustration, one of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that embodiments of the present disclosure may be applied to any type of combustor for a turbomachine and are not limited to annular combustion systems for land-based power-generating gas turbines unless specifically recited in the claims.

Referring now to the drawings, FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic diagram of an exemplary gas turbine 10. The gas turbine 10 generally includes an inlet section 12, a compressor 14 disposed downstream of the inlet section 12, a combustion section 16 disposed downstream of the compressor 14, a turbine 18 disposed downstream of the combustion section 16, and an exhaust section 20 disposed downstream of the turbine 18. Additionally, the gas turbine 10 may include one or more shafts 22 that couple the compressor 14 to the turbine 18.

During operation, air 24 flows through the inlet section 12 and into the compressor 14 where the air 24 is progressively compressed, thus providing compressed air 26 to the combustion section 16. At least a portion of the compressed air 26 is mixed with a fuel 28 within the combustion section 16 and burned to produce combustion gases 30. The combustion gases 30 flow from the combustion section 16 into the turbine 18, wherein energy (kinetic and/or thermal) is transferred from the combustion gases 30 to rotor blades (not shown), thus causing shaft 22 to rotate. The mechanical

rotational energy may then be used for various purposes, such as to power the compressor 14 and/or to generate electricity. The combustion gases 30 exiting the turbine 18 may then be exhausted from the gas turbine 10 via the exhaust section 20.

FIG. 2 provides an upstream view of the combustion section 16, according to various embodiments of the present disclosure. As shown in FIG. 2, the combustion section 16 may be at least partially surrounded by an outer or compressor discharge casing 32. The compressor discharge casing 32 may at least partially define a high pressure plenum 34 that at least partially surrounds various components of the combustor 16. The high pressure plenum 34 may be in fluid communication with the compressor 14 (FIG. 1) so as to receive the compressed air 26 therefrom. In various embodiments, as shown in FIG. 2, the combustion section 16 includes a segmented annular combustion system 36 that includes a number of integrated combustor nozzles 100 arranged circumferentially around an axial centerline 38 of the gas turbine 10, which may be coincident with the gas turbine shaft 22.

FIG. 3 provides a partially exploded perspective view of a portion of the segmented annular combustion system 36, as viewed from a first side, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 4 provides a partially exploded perspective view of a portion of the segmented annular combustion system 36, as viewed from a second side, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. As shown collectively in FIGS. 2, 3 and 4, the segmented annular combustion system 36 includes a plurality of integrated combustor nozzles 100. As described further herein, each combustor nozzle 100 includes a first side wall and a second side wall. In particular embodiments, the first side wall is a pressure side wall, while the second side wall is a suction side wall, based on the integration of the side walls with corresponding pressure and suction sides of a downstream turbine nozzle 120. It should be understood that any references made herein to pressure side walls and suction side walls are representative of particular embodiments, such references being made to facilitate discussion, and that such references are not intended to limit the scope of any embodiment, unless specific context dictates otherwise.

As shown collectively in FIGS. 3 and 4, each circumferentially adjacent pair of combustor nozzles 100 defines a respective primary combustion zone 102 and a respective secondary combustion zone 104 therebetween, thereby forming an annular array of primary combustion zones 102 and secondary combustion zones 104. The primary combustion zones 102 and the secondary combustion zones 104 are circumferentially separated, or fluidly isolated, from adjacent primary combustion zones 102 and secondary combustion zones 104, respectively, by the fuel injection panels 110.

As shown collectively in FIGS. 3 and 4, each combustor nozzle 100 includes an inner liner segment 106, an outer liner segment 108, and a hollow or semi-hollow fuel injection panel 110 that extends between the inner liner segment 106 and the outer liner segment 108. It is contemplated that more than one (e.g., 2, 3, 4, or more) fuel injection panels 110 may be positioned between the inner liner segment 106 and the outer liner segment 108, thereby reducing the number of joints between adjacent liner segments that require sealing. For ease of discussion herein, reference will be made to integrated combustor nozzles 100 having a single fuel injection panel 110 between respective inner and outer liner segments 106, 108, although a 2:1 ratio of liner segments to fuel injection panels is not required. As shown

in FIGS. 3 and 4, each fuel injection panel 110 includes forward or upstream end portion 112, an aft or downstream end portion 114, a first (pressure) side wall 116 (FIG. 3) and a second (suction) side wall 118 (FIG. 4).

The segmented annular combustion system 36 further includes a plurality of annularly arranged fuel injection modules 300, shown in FIGS. 3 and 4 exploded away from the combustor nozzle 100. Each fuel injection module 300 includes a fuel nozzle portion 302 (shown as a bundled tube fuel nozzle) and a plurality of fuel injection lances 304, which are configured for installation in the forward end portion 112 of a respective fuel injection panel 110. For purposes of illustration herein, the fuel nozzle portion 302 may be referred to as a “bundled tube fuel nozzle” or “bundled tube fuel nozzle portion.” However, the fuel nozzle portion 302 may include or comprise any type of fuel nozzle or burner (such as a swirling fuel nozzle or swozzle), and the claims should be not limited to bundled tube fuel nozzle unless specifically recited as such.

Each fuel injection module 300 may extend at least partially circumferentially between two circumferentially adjacent fuel injection panels 110 and/or at least partially radially between a respective inner liner segment 106 and outer liner segment 108 of the respective combustor nozzle 100. During axially staged fuel injection operation, the bundled tube fuel nozzle portion 302 provides a stream of premixed fuel and air (that is, a first combustible mixture) to the respective primary combustion zone 102, while the fuel injection lances 304 provide fuel (as part of a second combustible mixture) to the respective secondary combustion zone 104 via a plurality of pressure side and/or suction side premixing channels described in detail below.

In at least one embodiment, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the downstream end portion 114 of one or more of the fuel injection panels 110 transitions into a generally airfoil-shaped turbine nozzle 120, which directs and accelerates the flow of combustion products toward the turbine blades. Thus, the downstream end portion 114 of each fuel injection panel 110 may be considered an airfoil without a leading edge. When the integrated combustor nozzles 100 are mounted within the combustion section 16, the turbine nozzle 120 may be positioned immediately upstream from a stage of turbine rotor blades of the turbine 18.

As used herein, the term “integrated combustor nozzle” refers to a seamless structure that includes the fuel injection panel 110, the turbine nozzle 120 downstream of the fuel injection panel, the inner liner segment 106 extending from the forward end 112 of the fuel injection panel 110 to the aft end 114 (embodied by the turbine nozzle 120), and the outer liner segment 108 extending from the forward end 112 of the fuel injection panel 110 to the aft end 114 (embodied by the turbine nozzle 120). In at least one embodiment, the turbine nozzle 120 of the integrated combustor nozzle 100 functions as a first-stage turbine nozzle and is positioned upstream from a first stage of turbine rotor blades.

As described above, one or more of the integrated combustor nozzles 100 is formed as an integral, or unitary, structure or body that includes the inner liner segment 106, the outer liner segment 108, the fuel injection panel 110, and the turbine nozzle 120. The integrated combustor nozzle 100 may be made as an integrated or seamless component, via casting, additive manufacturing (such as 3D printing), or other manufacturing techniques. By forming the combustor nozzle 100 as a unitary or integrated component, the need for seals between the various features of the combustor nozzle 100 may be reduced or eliminated, part count and costs may be reduced, and assembly steps may be simplified

or eliminated. In other embodiments, the combustor nozzle **100** may be fabricated, such as by welding, or may be formed from different manufacturing techniques, where components made with one technique are joined to components made by the same or another technique.

In particular embodiments, at least a portion or all of each integrated combustor nozzle **100** may be formed from a ceramic matrix composite (CMC) or other composite material. In other embodiments, a portion or all of each integrated combustor nozzle **100** and, more specifically, the turbine nozzle **120** or its trailing edge, may be made from a material that is highly resistant to oxidation (coated with a thermal barrier coating) or may be coated with a material that is highly resistant to oxidation.

In another embodiment (not shown), at least one of the fuel injection panels **110** may taper to a trailing edge that is aligned with a longitudinal (axial) axis of the fuel injection panel **110**. That is, the fuel injection panel **110** may not be integrated with a turbine nozzle **120**. In these embodiments, it may be desirable to have an uneven count of fuel injection panels **110** and turbine nozzles **120**. The tapered fuel injection panels **110** (i.e., those without integrated turbine nozzles **120**) may be used in an alternating or some other pattern with fuel injection panels **110** having integrated turbine nozzles **120** (i.e., integrated combustor nozzles **100**).

Returning again to FIGS. **3** and **4**, in some embodiments, an axial joint or split line **122** may be formed between the inner liner segments **106** and the outer liner segments **108** of circumferentially adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100**. The split line **122** may be oriented along a circumferential center of the respective primary combustion zone **102** and the secondary combustion zone **104** formed between each pair of adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100** or at some other location. In one embodiment, one or more seals (such as spline-type) seals may be disposed along each joint **122**, which includes recessed seal-receiving areas (not shown) in one or both of the respective adjacent edges of the liner segment **106** or **108**. A separate spline-type seal may be used between each circumferentially adjacent turbine nozzle **120** of adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100**. In other embodiments (not shown), the liner segments **106**, **108** may extend circumferentially across multiple integrated combustor nozzles **100**, in which case fewer seals per combustion system **36** are needed, and some subset of combustion zones **102**, **104** may have surrounding split lines **122** and seals.

FIG. **5** provides a cross-sectioned view of a pressure side **116** of an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle **100** at least partially assembled, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. In particular embodiments, as shown collectively in FIGS. **3**, **4** and **5**, the turbine nozzle **120** portion or a portion of the downstream end portion **114** of one or more of the fuel injection panels **110** may be at least partially covered or sheathed by a corresponding shield **124**. FIGS. **3** and **4** provide views with one shield **124** separated from a corresponding turbine nozzle portion **120** of the fuel injection panel **110** and two additional shields **124** installed on circumferentially adjacent turbine nozzles **120**. The shields **124** may be formed from any material suitable for the high temperature operating environment of the integrated combustor nozzles **100**. For example, in one or more embodiments one or more of the shields **124** may be formed from a CMC or other material that is highly resistant to oxidation. In some instances, the shield **124** may be coated with a thermal barrier coating.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **3**, **4** and **5**, a portion of the inner liner segment **106** proximate to the downstream end portion **114** of the fuel injection panel **110**

may be formed to allow the shield **124** to slide over the turbine nozzle **120**. An inner hook plate **228**, which is mounted to the inner liner segment **106**, may be used to secure the shield **124** in place.

In various embodiments, as shown in FIG. **3**, each fuel injection panel **110** may include a plurality of radially spaced pressure side injection outlets **126** defined along the pressure side wall **116**. As shown in FIG. **4**, each fuel injection panel **110** may include a plurality of radially spaced suction side injection outlets **128** defined along the suction side wall **118**. Each respective primary combustion zone **102** is defined upstream from the corresponding pressure side injection outlets **126** and/or suction side injection outlets **128** of a pair of circumferentially adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100**. Each secondary combustion zone **104** is defined downstream from the corresponding pressure side injection outlets **126** and/or suction side injection outlets **128** of the pair of circumferentially adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100**.

As shown in FIGS. **3**, **4**, and **5** collectively, the pressure side injection outlets **126** and the suction side injection outlets **128** of two circumferentially adjacent fuel injection panels **110** define respective injection plane(s) **130**, **131** from which a second fuel and air mixture is injected into a flow of combustion gases originating from the respective primary combustion zone **102**. In particular embodiments, the pressure side injection plane **130** and the suction side injection plane **131** may be defined or axially staged at the same axial distance from the downstream end portion **114** of the fuel injection panel **110**. In other embodiments, the pressure side injection plane **130** and the suction side injection plane **131** may be defined or axially staged at different axial distances from the downstream end portion **114** of the fuel injection panel **110**.

Although FIGS. **3** and **5** illustrate the plurality of pressure side injection outlets **126** as residing in a common radial or injection plane **130** with respect to an axial centerline of the integrated combustor nozzle **100** or at a common axial distance from the downstream end portion **114** of the fuel injection panel **110**, in particular embodiments, one or more of the pressure side injection outlets **126** may be staggered axially with respect to radially adjacent pressure side injection outlets **126**, thereby off-setting the axial distances of the pressure side injection outlets **126** to the downstream end portion **114** for particular pressure side injection outlets **126**. Similarly, although FIG. **4** illustrates the plurality of suction side injection outlets **128** in a common radial or injection plane **131** or at a common axial distance from the downstream end portion **114** of the fuel injection panel **110**, in particular embodiments, one or more of the suction side injection outlets **128** may be staggered axially with respect to radially adjacent suction side injection outlets **128**, thereby off-setting the axial distances of the pressure side injection outlets **128** to the downstream end portion **114** for particular suction side injection outlets **128**.

Further, while the injection outlets **126**, **128** are illustrated as having a uniform size (i.e., cross-sectional area), it is contemplated that it may be desirable, in some circumstances, to employ different sized injection outlets **126**, **128** in different areas of the fuel injection panel **110**. For instance, injection outlets **126**, **128** having a larger diameter may be used in the radial central portion of the fuel injection panel **110**, while injection outlets **126**, **128** having a smaller diameter may be used in areas proximate the inner liner segment **106** and outer liner segment **108**. Likewise, it may be desirable to have injection outlets **126** or **128** on a given

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side wall **116** or **118** be of a size different from the injection outlets **128** or **126** of the opposite side wall **118** or **116**.

As mentioned above, in at least one embodiment, it may be desirable to have the secondary fuel-air introduction occur from a single side (e.g., the pressure side wall **116** or the suction side wall **118**) of the fuel injection panel **110**. Thus, each fuel injection panel **110** may be provided with only a single set of premixing channels having outlets on a common side wall (**116** or **118**). Moreover, each fuel injection panel **110** may be provided with two (or more) subsets of premixing channels on a single side wall, which are fueled separately by respective subsets of fuel injection lances **304**, with fuel to each subset of lances **304** being independently activated, reduced, or deactivated. In other embodiments, each fuel injection panel **110** may be provided with two (or more) subsets of premixing channels having outlets on both side walls (**116** and **118**), which are fueled separately by respective subsets of fuel injection lances **304** (as shown in FIG. **13**), with fuel to each subset of lances **304** being independently activated, reduced, or deactivated.

FIGS. **6**, **7** and **8** provide cross-sectioned views of the combustor nozzle **100** shown in FIG. **5**, as taken along cross-sectional line **6-6**, cross-sectional line **7-7**, and cross-sectional line **8-8**, respectively.

As shown collectively in FIGS. **6** and **7**, each fuel injection panel **110** includes a plurality of premixing channels that have outlets on a side of the fuel injection panel **110**. In one instance, pressure side premixing channels **132** (FIG. **6**) are those channels having outlets **126** on the pressure side **116**, while suction side premixing channels **134** (FIG. **7**) are those channels having outlets **128** on the pressure side **118**. Each pressure side premixing channel **132** is in fluid communication with a respective pressure side injection outlet **126**. Each suction side premixing channel **134** is in fluid communication with a respective suction side injection outlet **128**. In at least one embodiment, as shown in FIG. **6**, the pressure side premixing channels **132** are defined within the fuel injection panel **110** between the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118**. In at least one embodiment, as shown in FIG. **7**, the suction side premixing channels **134** are defined within the fuel injection panel **110** between the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118**.

As mentioned above, it is contemplated that the fuel injection panel **110** may have premixing channels (**132** or **134**) that terminate in outlets located along a single side (either the pressure side wall **116** or the suction side wall **118**, respectively). Thus, while reference is made herein to embodiments having outlets **126**, **128** on both the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118**, it should be understood that there is no requirement that both the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118** have outlets **126**, **128** for delivering a fuel-air mixture unless recited in the claims.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **6** and **7**, a wall thickness **T** of either or both of the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118** of the fuel injection panel **110** may vary along the axial (or longitudinal) length and/or along a radial span of the fuel injection panel **110**. For example, the wall thickness **T** of either or both of the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118** of the fuel injection panel **110** may vary between the upstream end portion **112** and the downstream end portion **114** and/or between the inner liner segment **106** and the outer liner segment **108** (FIG. **5**).

In particular embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. **6**, an overall injection panel thickness **PT** may vary along the axial

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(or longitudinal) length and/or along a radial span of the fuel injection panel **110**. For example, the pressure side wall **116** and/or the suction side wall **118** may include a concave portion that bulges outwardly towards and/or into the flow of combustion gases flowing between two circumferentially adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100**. The bulge or variation in overall injection panel thickness **PT** may occur at any point along the radial span and/or the axial length of the respective pressure side wall **116** or the suction side wall **118**. Panel thickness **PT** or the position of the bulge may vary along the axial length and/or the radial span of the pressure side wall **116** or the suction side wall **118** to tailor the local areas to achieve a certain target velocity and residence time profile without requiring a change in wall thickness **T**. It is not required that the bulge area be symmetrical on both the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118** of a given fuel injection panel **110**.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. **6**, one or more of the pressure side premixing channels **132** may have a generally straight or linear portion **136** extending along a longitudinal axis of the fuel injection panel **110** and a generally curved portion **138** defined just upstream from the respective pressure side injection outlet **126**. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. **7**, one or more of the suction side premixing channels **134** may have a generally straight portion **140** extending along the longitudinal axis of the fuel injection panel **110** and a curved portion **142** defined just upstream from the corresponding suction side injection outlet **128**. The curved portions **138**, **142** may include an inner radius (toward the upstream end **112** of the fuel injection panel **110**) and an outer radius (toward the downstream end **114** of the fuel injection panel **110**). In at least one embodiment, as shown in FIG. **8**, the pressure side premixing channels **132** may be spaced radially apart or separated by corresponding suction side premixing channels **134**.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **6** and **7**, the pressure side premixing channels **132** and/or the suction side premixing channels **134** may traverse or wind between the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118** of the fuel injection panel **110**. In one embodiment, the pressure side premixing channels **132** and/or the suction side premixing channels **134** may traverse radially inwardly and/or outwardly between the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118** rather than along a straight or constant axial (or longitudinal) plane of the fuel injection panel **110**. The pressure side premixing channels **132** and/or the suction side premixing channels **134** may be oriented at different angles within the fuel injection panel **110**. In particular embodiments, one or more of the pressure side premixing channels **132** and/or the suction side premixing channels **134** may be formed with varying sizes and/or geometries. In particular embodiments, one or more of the premixing channels **132**, **134** may include a mixing-enhancing feature therein, such as a bend, a kink, a twist, a helical portion, a turbulator, or the like.

As shown in FIGS. **6**, **7** and **8** collectively, fuel injection lances **304** from a respective fuel injection module **300** extend through a premix air plenum **144** defined within the fuel injection panel **110** and specifically defined between the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118** (FIGS. **6** and **7**) proximate to the upstream end portion **112** of the fuel injection panel **110**. A downstream end portion **306** of each fuel injection lance **304** extends at least partially into and is in fluid communication with a respective pressure side premixing channel **132** or a respective suction side premixing channel **134** of the respective fuel injection panel **110**.

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Again, it is not required that both premixing channels **132**, **134** be present. Rather, only one set of premixing channels **132** or **134** may be used.

FIG. **9** provides a cross-sectioned downstream perspective view of an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle **100** of the plurality of integrated combustor nozzles **100** with a portion of the premix air plenum **144** cut away, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. **10** provides an enlarged view of a portion of the fuel injection panel **110** as shown in FIG. **9**, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

In at least one embodiment, as shown in FIGS. **9** and **10** collectively, each fuel injection panel **110** includes a plurality of radially spaced annular collars or seats **146** for directing the fuel injection lances **304** into the premixing channels **132**, **134**. Each collar **146** defines a central opening **151** and is supported by a plurality of struts **148**. Each collar **146** may include a tapered or diverging portion **150** circumscribing the central opening **151** to assist with inserting or aligning a corresponding fuel injection lance **304** into the central opening **151**. The struts **148** may be spaced about the respective collars **146** to define flow passages **152** around the respective collars **146** and into a corresponding premixing channel **132** or **134**. The flow passages **152** provide for fluid communication between the premix air plenum **144** and the pressure side and suction side premixing channels **132**, **134**. As shown in FIGS. **6**, **7** and **8**, the collars **146** may be sized to receive and/or to support at least a portion (such as the downstream end portions **306**) of the fuel injection lances **304**.

FIG. **11** provides an overhead (top down) cross-sectioned view of a portion of an exemplary fuel injection panel **110** with an exemplary fuel injection lance **304** inserted therein, according to at least one embodiment. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. **11**, the downstream end portion **306** of one or more of the fuel injection lances **304** includes a dispensing tip **308**. The dispensing tip **308** may be conical, converging, or tapered to facilitate installation through a respective collar **146** of the respective fuel injection panel **110** (as discussed above) and may extend at least partially into a respective pressure side premixing channel **132** or a respective suction side premixing channel **134**. The dispensing tip **308** may include one or more injection ports **310**, which are in fluid communication with an injector fuel plenum **336** (discussed further below).

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. **11**, one or more of the fuel injection lances **304** includes a bellows portion or cover **312**. The bellows portion **312** may allow for relative thermal growth or movement, in a generally axial direction, between the fuel injection panel **110** and the injection lances **304** during operation of the segmented annular combustion system **36**. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. **11**, the fuel injection panel **110** may include a plurality of floating collars **154** disposed proximate to or coupled to the upstream end portion **112** of the fuel injection panel **110**. The floating collars **154** may allow for radial and/or axial movement between the integrated combustor nozzle **100** (particularly the fuel injection panel **110**) and the fuel injection module **300**.

As shown in FIGS. **8** through **11**, the premixing channels **132**, **134** are arranged in a common radial plane spaced between the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118** of the fuel injection panel **110**. Alternately, as shown in FIG. **12**, the pressure side premixing channels **132** and/or the suction side premixing channels **134** may be formed integrally with the suction side wall **118** and/or pressure side wall **116** of the fuel injection panel **110** with outlets on

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opposite sides of the fuel injection panel **110** or with outlets on the same side of the fuel injection panel **110**. In this embodiment, the fuel injection lances **304** may be circumferentially separated into a first subset of pressure side fuel injection lances and a second subset of suction side fuel injection lances, so that the fuel injection lances **304** align with the inlets of corresponding premixing channels **132**, **134**. The first subset of fuel injection lances **304** and the second subset of fuel injection lances **304** may be fueled by one or more injector fuel plenums **336**.

FIG. **13** provides a downstream perspective view of an exemplary fuel injection module **300** inserted into a portion of an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle **100**, according to one embodiment. FIG. **14** provides an upstream perspective view of the fuel injection module **300**, as shown in FIG. **13**. In various embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **13** and **14** collectively, the fuel injection module **300** includes a bundled tube fuel nozzle portion **302** having a housing body **314**. The housing body **314** may include a forward (or upstream) plate or face **316**, an aft (or downstream) plate or face **318**, an outer perimeter wall **320** that extends axially from the forward plate **316** to the aft plate **318**, and a plurality of tubes **322** that extend axially through the forward plate **316** and the aft plate **318** within the outer perimeter wall **320**. In particular embodiments, a seal **324** (such as a floating collar seal) surrounds at least a portion of the outer perimeter wall **320** of the housing body **314**. The seal **324** may engage with a sealing surface such as the outer wall of a circumferentially adjacent fuel injection module **300** to prevent or reduce fluid flow therebetween.

Each tube **322** includes an inlet **326** (FIG. **13**) defined at or upstream from the forward plate **316**, an outlet **328** (FIG. **14**) defined at or downstream from the aft plate **318**, and a premix passage **330** (shown in hidden lines in FIG. **14**) that extends between the respective inlet **326** and outlet **328**. As shown in hidden lines in FIG. **14**, a fuel nozzle plenum **332** is defined within the housing body **314** of the fuel injection module **300**. Each tube **322** of the plurality of tubes **322** extends through the fuel nozzle plenum **332**. At least some of the tubes **322** include or define at least one fuel port **334** positioned within the fuel nozzle plenum **332**. Each fuel port **334** permits fluid communication from the fuel nozzle plenum **332** into a respective premix passage **330**. In particular embodiments, the fuel nozzle plenum **332** may be subdivided or partitioned into two or more fuel nozzle plenums **332** defined within the housing body **314**.

In operation, gaseous fuel (or in some embodiments, a liquid fuel reformed into a gaseous mixture) flows from the fuel nozzle plenum **332**, via the fuel ports **334**, into the respective premix passage **330** of each of the tubes **322**, where the fuel mixes with air entering the respective inlet **326** of each tube **322**. The fuel ports **334** may be positioned along the respective tubes **322** in a single axial plane or in more than one axial plane, for example, if a multi-tau arrangement is desired to address or tune combustion dynamics between two adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100** or to mitigate coherent axial modes between the segmented annular combustion system **36** and the turbine **18**.

In the embodiment provided in FIG. **13**, each fuel injection lance **304** of the plurality of fuel injection lances **304** is radially spaced from adjacent fuel injection lances **304** along a radial wall portion of the outer perimeter wall **320** of the housing body **314** of the fuel injection module **300**. As shown in hidden lines in FIG. **13**, an injector fuel plenum or fuel circuit **336** is defined within the housing body **314** of the fuel injection module **300**.

In particular embodiments, the fuel injection lances **304** are in fluid communication with the injector fuel plenum **336**. In particular embodiments, the injector fuel plenum **336** may be subdivided into two or more injector fuel plenums **336**. For example, in particular embodiments, the injector fuel plenum **336** may be subdivided into a first injector fuel plenum **338**, which may feed fuel to a first subset **340** of the plurality of fuel injection lances **304**, and a second injector fuel plenum **342**, which may feed fuel to a second subset **344** of the plurality of fuel injection lances **304**. As shown, the first subset **340** of fuel injection lances **304** may be a radially inner subset, while the second subset **344** of fuel injection lances **304** may be a radially outer subset.

In other embodiments, every other fuel injection lance **304** of the plurality of fuel injection lances **304** may be fueled by a first injector fuel plenum, while the remaining lances **304** are fueled by a separate fuel injector plenum. In such an arrangement, it is possible to supply fuel to the premixing channels (e.g., **132**) having outlets along one side wall independently of the supply of fuel to the premixing channels (e.g. **134**) of the opposite side wall.

In particular embodiments, the fuel injection lances **304** may be subdivided into a radially outer subset of fuel injection lances (**304(a)**), an intermediate or middle subset of fuel injection lances **304(b)**, and a radially inner subset of fuel injection lances **304(c)**. In this configuration, the radially outer subset and the radially inner subset of fuel injection lances **304(a)**, **304(c)** may receive fuel from one fuel injector plenum, while the intermediate subset of fuel injection lances **304(b)** may receive fuel from another (separate) fuel injector plenum. The plurality of fuel injection lances **304** may be subdivided into multiple independently or commonly fueled subsets of fuel injection lances **304**, and the present disclosure is not limited to two or three subsets of the fuel injections lances unless otherwise recited in the claims.

Fuel may be supplied to the various plenums within the fuel injection modules **300** from a head end portion of the segmented annular combustion system **36**. For example, fuel may be supplied to the various fuel injection modules **300** via an end cover (not shown) coupled to the compressor discharge casing **32** and/or via one or more tubes or conduits disposed within a head end portion of the compressor discharge casing **32**.

Alternately, the fuel may be supplied radially through the outer liner segments **108** to the fuel injection module **110** from a radially outward fuel manifold or fuel supply assembly (not shown). In yet another configuration (not shown), fuel may be supplied to the aft end **114** of the fuel injection panel **110** and routed through the pressure side wall **116** and/or suction side wall **118** to cool the fuel injection panel **110** before being introduced via the bundled tube fuel nozzle **302** or the fuel injection lances **304**.

In another configuration (not shown), fuel may be supplied to the aft end **114** of the fuel injection panel **110** and directed to premixing channels **132**, **134**, which originate from the aft end of the fuel injection panel **110** and have outlets **126**, **128** in the pressure side wall **116** and the suction side wall **118**, respectively. In this configuration, the need for fuel injection lances **304** is eliminated, and fuel to the bundled tube fuel nozzle **302** may be supplied either radially or axially (via fuel supply conduits, such as those described herein).

As shown in FIG. **13**, in various embodiments, one or more conduits **346** may be used to provide fuel to the fuel nozzle plenum **332** and/or the injector fuel plenum **336** or injector fuel plenums **338**, **342**. For example, in one embodi-

ment, the conduit **346** may comprise an outer tube **348** concentrically surrounding an inner tube **350** forming a tube-in-tube configuration. In this embodiment, an outer fuel circuit **352** is defined radially between the inner tube **350** and the outer tube **348**, and an inner fuel circuit **354** is formed within the inner tube **350**, thus defining concentric fuel flow paths to the fuel nozzle plenum **332** and/or the injector fuel plenum(s) **336**, **338**, **342**. For example, the outer fuel circuit **352** may provide fuel to one or more of the injector plenum(s) **336**, **338**, **342**, while the inner fuel circuit **354** provides fuel to the fuel nozzle plenum(s) **332**, or vice versa. In another embodiment (not shown), separate tubes **348**, **350** may be used to deliver fuel to the fuel nozzle plenum **332** and the injector fuel plenum **336**.

FIG. **15** provides an upstream perspective view of the fuel injection module **300**, according to another embodiment. FIG. **16** provides an upstream perspective view of an alternate fuel injection module **300**, according to another embodiment. FIG. **17** provides a downstream perspective view of a plurality of the fuel injection modules **300** (as shown in FIG. **15**) installed within circumferentially adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100**.

In the embodiments illustrated in FIGS. **15**, **16** and **17** collectively, the plurality of tubes **322** of the bundled tube fuel nozzle portion **302** is subdivided into a first subset of tubes **356** and a second subset of tubes **358**. The housing body **314** includes a common forward plate **316**, a first aft plate **360**, a second aft plate **362**, and an outer perimeter wall **320** that extends around each subset of tubes **356**, **358** to define one or more respective fuel nozzle plenums (not shown). As used herein, the terms “fuel nozzle plenum” and “bundled tube fuel plenum” may be used interchangeably to refer to the fuel plenums supplying fuel to the fuel nozzle portion **302** (in some cases, a bundled tube fuel nozzle) of the fuel injection module **300**.

The first subset of tubes **356** extends through the forward plate **316**, a first fuel nozzle plenum defined within the housing body **314**, and the first aft plate **360**. The second subset of tubes **358** extends through the forward plate **316**, a second fuel nozzle plenum defined within the housing body **314**, and the second aft plate **362**. As shown in FIG. **15**, the plurality of fuel injection lances **304** is disposed circumferentially between the first subset of tubes **356** and the second subset of tubes **358** and/or between the first aft plate **360** and the second aft plate **362**.

FIG. **16** illustrates an alternate fuel injection module **300**, which may be used in embodiments with a radial delivery of fuel to injector fuel plenums within the fuel injection panels **110**. In this embodiment, the fuel injection lances **304** may be omitted from the fuel injection module **300**, thus leaving a circumferential gap between respective subsets of tubes **356**, **358**.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **14**, **15** and **16**, one or more of the fuel injection modules **300** may include an igniter **364** for igniting the fuel and air mixture exiting bundled tube fuel nozzle portion **302** of the fuel injection module **300**. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **15** and **16**, a seal **366** (such as a hula or spring-type seal) may be disposed along a side perimeter wall **368** of the housing body **314** of one or more of the fuel injection modules **300**. The seal **366** may engage with an adjacent side perimeter wall of an adjacent fuel injection module **300** to prevent or reduce fluid flow therebetween.

FIGS. **15**, **16** and **17** illustrate a pair of fuel conduits **382**, **392** associated with each fuel injection module **300**. In one embodiment (FIGS. **15** and **17**), the fuel conduits **382**, **392** may be constructed as tube-in-tube arrangements, as dis-

cussed above. In this case, a first fuel conduit **382** may supply fuel to the first subset of bundled tubes **356** and a first subset of fuel injection lances **304** (not separately labeled), while the other fuel conduit **392** may supply fuel to the second subset of bundled tubes **358** and a second subset of fuel injection lances **304**.

In another embodiment (FIG. 16), the fuel conduit **382** may supply fuel to the first subset of bundled tubes **356**, and the second conduit **392** may supply fuel to the second subset of bundled tubes **358**. In yet another variation, the first subset of bundled tubes **356** and the second subset of bundled tubes **358** may be fed by a common first fuel nozzle plenum **372** (fed by the first fuel conduit **382**) and a common second fuel nozzle plenum (fed by the second fuel conduit **392**), thus permitting each subset of tubes **356**, **358** to be further divided into a radially inner and radially outer grouping of bundled tubes. That is, the radially inner tubes of the first bundled subset **356** and the radially inner tubes of the second bundled subset **358** may be fueled by the first conduit **382**, while the radially outer tubes of the subsets **356**, **358** may be fueled by the second conduit **392**. Thus, it is possible to create radially inner and radially outer bundled tube subsets, which may be independently fueled, within a common housing of a single fuel injection module **300**.

FIG. 17 illustrates a set of three exemplary fuel injection modules **300** of FIG. 15, which are assembled with three respective combustor nozzles **100**. As shown, the first subset of bundled tubes **356** is located circumferentially outboard of the suction side wall (**118**) of the fuel injection panel **110**. The combustor nozzle **100** is positioned between the first and second bundled tube fuel nozzle subsets **356**, **358**. The second bundled tube fuel nozzle subset **358** is positioned circumferentially outboard of the pressure side (**116**) of the same fuel injection panel **110**. Thus, each primary combustion zone **102** combusts fuel and air mixtures from the second bundled tube fuel nozzle subset **358** of a first fuel injection module **300** and the first bundled tube fuel nozzle **356** of a second (adjacent) fuel injection module **300**. Similarly, in those embodiments having premixing channels **132**, **134** disposed on each side wall of the fuel injection panels **110**, each secondary combustion zone **104** combusts fuel and air mixtures from the suction side premixing channels **134** of a first fuel injection panel **110** and the pressure side premixing channels **132** of a second (adjacent) fuel injection panel **110**.

FIG. 18 provides a cross-sectioned top view of a portion of the integrated combustor nozzle **100**, including a portion of a fuel injection panel **110** and the fuel injection module **300** (as shown in FIGS. 15 and 17), according to at least one embodiment. FIG. 19 provides a cross-sectioned side view of the embodiment of the fuel injection module **300** (illustrated in FIG. 15) inserted into an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle **100** with the pressure side wall **116** cut away, according to at least one embodiment.

As shown in FIG. 18, the first subset of tubes **356** of the plurality of tubes **322** extends along a portion of the suction side wall **118** of the respective fuel injection panel **110**, and the second subset of tubes **358** of the plurality of tubes **322** extends along the pressure side wall **116** of the same fuel injection panel **110**. As such, as shown in FIG. 17, two circumferentially adjacent fuel injection modules **300** mounted to two circumferentially adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100** may be required to form a full bank of tubes **322** for each primary combustion zone **102** within the segmented annular combustion system **36**.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 18 and 19, the bundled tube fuel plenum **332** may be subdivided into

two or more bundled tube fuel plenums. For example, in one embodiment, the bundled tube fuel plenum **332** may be subdivided or partitioned into a first bundled tube fuel plenum **370** and a second bundled tube fuel plenum **372** via a wall **371** or other obstruction defined or disposed within the fuel injection module **300**. In this configuration, as shown in FIG. 18, the first bundled tube fuel plenum **370** may provide fuel to the first subset of tubes **356**, while the second bundled tube fuel plenum **372** may provide fuel to the second subset of tubes **358**. In this configuration, the first subset of tubes **356** and the second subset of tubes **358** may be fueled or operated independently of each other.

In particular embodiments, as illustrated in FIG. 18, the bundled tube fuel plenum **332** may be subdivided axially across one or both subsets of tubes **356**, **358**, via one or more plates or walls **373** disposed within the housing body **314**, thereby forming a forward bundled tube fuel plenum **332(a)** and an aft bundled tube fuel plenum **332(b)**. One or more of the fuel ports **334** may be in fluid communication with the forward bundled tube fuel plenum **332(a)**, and one or more of the fuel ports **334** may be in fluid communication with the aft bundled tube fuel plenum **332(b)**, thereby providing multi-tau flexibility to address or to tune combustion dynamics.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. 19, the injector fuel plenum **336** may be subdivided or split into a first injector fuel plenum **374** and a second injector fuel plenum **376**. In this embodiment, the plurality of fuel injection lances **304** may be subdivided into a first (or radially inner) subset **378** of fuel injection lances **304** and a second (or radially outer) subset **380** of fuel injection lances **304**. The first subset **378** of the fuel injection lances **304** may be in fluid communication with the first injector fuel plenum **374**, and the second subset **380** of the fuel injection lances **304** may be in fluid communication with the second injector fuel plenum **376**.

The first (or radially inner) subset **378** of fuel injection lances **304** may fuel a radially inner set of the pressure side wall and/or suction side wall premixing channels **132**, **134**, while the second (or radially outer) subset **380** of fuel injection lances **304** may fuel a radially outer set of the pressure side wall and/or suction side wall premixing channels **132**, **134**. This configuration may increase operational flexibility, in that the first subset of fuel injection lances **304** and the second subset of fuel injection lances **304** may be operated independently or together depending on operating mode (e.g., full-load, part-load, or turndown) or desired emissions performance.

FIG. 19 further illustrates a first conduit **382** including an outer tube **384** that concentrically surrounds an inner tube **386** to form a tube-in-tube configuration that defines an inner fuel circuit **388** and an outer fuel circuit **390**. The inner fuel circuit **388** may be used to supply fuel to the first bundled tube fuel plenum **370**, and the outer fuel circuit **390** may be used to provide fuel to the first injector fuel plenum **374** (or vice versa). A second conduit **392**, which includes an outer tube **394** that concentrically surrounds an inner tube **396** to form a tube-in-tube configuration, defines an inner fuel circuit **398** and an outer fuel circuit **400**. The inner fuel circuit **398** may be used to supply fuel to the second bundled tube fuel plenum **372**, and the outer fuel circuit **400** may be used to provide fuel to the second injector fuel plenum **376**.

Conveniently, in the embodiments shown in FIGS. 15 and 17 through 19, the fuel to both the fuel nozzle portion **302** and the fuel injection lances **304** is delivered via common fuel conduits (e.g., tube-in-tube conduits), thereby reducing complexity and minimizing part count. While tube-in-tube

arrangements are illustrated herein, it should be understood that separate fuel conduits may instead be used with at least one fuel conduit supplying fuel to the fuel nozzle portion **302** and at least one other fuel conduit supplying fuel to the fuel injection lances **304**.

FIG. **20** provides a downstream perspective view of a portion of the segmented annular combustion system **36** including a pair of circumferentially adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100** and a pair of radially mounted fuel injection modules **300**, according to at least one embodiment. In one embodiment, as shown in FIG. **20**, two fuel injection modules **300** may be radially stacked together, thereby forming a radially inner and a radially outer fuel injection module set **402**. Each fuel injection module **300** of the fuel injection module set **402** is fueled individually with conduits **404**, **406** having multiple fuel circuits, as described previously, such that the stacked fuel injection module set **402** has at least four independent fuel circuits. In this manner, the respective bundled tube fuel plenums and the injector fuel plenums may be charged or operated independently, as previously described.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. **20**, at least one of the fuel injection panels **110** may define at least one cross-fire tube **156** that extends through respective openings in the pressure side wall (hidden in FIG. **19**) and the suction side wall **118** of the respective fuel injection panel **110**. The cross-fire tube **156** permits cross-fire and ignition of circumferentially adjacent primary combustion zones **102** between circumferentially adjacent integrated combustor nozzles **100**.

In one embodiment, as shown in FIG. **21**, the cross-fire tube **156** is defined by a double-walled cylindrical structure with an air volume defined therebetween. The combustion gases **30**, ignited in a first primary combustion zone **102**, are permitted to flow through the inner wall of the cross-fire tube **156** into an adjacent primary combustion zone **102**, where ignition of the fuel and air mixture in the adjacent primary combustion zone **102** occurs. To prevent combustion gases from stagnating in the cross-fire tube **156**, purge air holes **158** are provided in the inner wall. In addition to the purge air holes **158**, the outer walls of the cross-fire tubes **156** may be provided with air feed holes **157** that may be in fluid communication with at least one air cavity **160**, **170** within the fuel injection panel **110** or some other source of compressed air. The purge air holes **158** are in fluid communication with the air volume, which receives air via the air feed holes **157**. The combination of smaller air feed holes **157** in the outer wall and larger purge air holes **158** in the inner wall transforms the cross-fire tube **156** into a resonator for mitigating potential combustion dynamics within the segmented annular combustion system **36**.

In particular embodiments, one or more of the fuel injection modules **300** may be configured to burn a liquid fuel in addition to a gaseous fuel. FIG. **22** provides a downstream perspective view of an exemplary fuel injection module configured for both gas fuel and liquid fuel operation, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. **23** provides a cross-sectioned side view of the exemplary fuel injection module **300** shown in FIG. **22**, taken along section line **23-23**, and coupled to an end cover **40**, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. **24** provides a cross-sectioned view of the fuel injection module **300** shown in FIG. **23**, taken along section line **24-24**, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

In at least one embodiment, as shown in FIGS. **22** and **23** collectively, one or more of the fuel injection modules **300**

may be fueled from an end cover **40** via a respective fuel supply conduit **408**. As shown in FIG. **23**, the fuel supply conduit **408** may comprise an outer conduit **410**, an inner conduit **412**, and a liquid fuel cartridge **414** that extends coaxially through the inner conduit **412**. In particular embodiments, the fuel supply conduit **408** may include an intermediate conduit **416** disposed radially between the inner conduit **412** and the outer conduit **410**. The outer conduit **410**, the inner conduit **412**, and the intermediate conduit **416** (when present) may define various fuel circuits therebetween for providing gaseous or liquid fuel to the bundled tube fuel nozzle portion **302** and/or the fuel injection lances **304** of the fuel injection module **300**.

In various embodiments, as shown in FIG. **23**, the housing body **314** of the fuel injection module **300** may define an air plenum **418** therein. The air plenum **418** may surround at least a portion of each tube **322** of the plurality of tubes **322**. Air from the compressor discharge casing **32** may enter the air plenum **418** via openings **420** defined along the housing body **314** or by some other opening or passage, such as a channel (not shown) originating from the forward plate **316** and extending through the fuel plenum **332** to the air plenum **418**.

In various embodiments, the liquid fuel cartridge **414** extends axially within and at least partially through the inner conduit **412**. The liquid fuel cartridge **414** may supply liquid fuel **424** (such as oil) to at least a portion of the plurality of tubes **322**. In addition or in the alternative, the liquid fuel cartridge **414** may project a liquid fuel **424** generally axially downstream and radially outwardly from the outlets **328** of the tubes **322** beyond the aft plate(s) **318**, **360**, **362**, such that the liquid fuel **424** may be atomized with a premixed gaseous fuel-air mixture flowing from the tube outlets **328** (or with air flowing through the tube outlets, when the combustion system is operating only on liquid fuel, and the gaseous fuel supply to the tubes **332** is inactive).

In this configuration, as illustrated in FIG. **23**, liquid fuel may be injected directly into the primary combustion zone **102** via the liquid fuel cartridge **414**. In particular embodiments, the liquid fuel cartridge **414** and the inner conduit **412** may at least partially define an annular purge air passage **428** therebetween. During operation, purge air **430** may be provided to the purge air passage **428** to thermally insulate the liquid fuel cartridge **414**, thereby minimizing coking. The purge air **430** may be exhausted from the purge air passage **428**, via an annular gap **432** defined between a downstream end portion of the liquid fuel cartridge **414** and a downstream end portion of the inner conduit **412**.

The inner conduit **412** and the intermediate conduit **416** define an inner fuel passage **422** therebetween for providing a gaseous fuel to the fuel plenum **332**, which supplies fuel to the plurality of tubes **322** of the fuel injection module **300**. A flow of premixed (gaseous or gasified liquid) fuel and air may be injected into the primary combustion zone **102**, via the tube outlets **328** of the bundled tube fuel nozzle portion **302**.

An outer fuel passage **426** defined between the intermediate conduit **416** and the outer conduit **410** directs gaseous fuel to the injector fuel plenum **336**, which supplies fuel to the fuel injection lances **304**. FIG. **24** illustrates the concentricity between the liquid fuel cartridge **414**, the purge air passage **428**, the inner fuel passage **422**, and the outer fuel passage **426**.

FIG. **25** provides an overhead (top down) cross-sectioned view of a portion of an exemplary fuel injection panel **110** with an exemplary fuel injection lance **304**, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. In particular

embodiments, as shown in FIG. 25, liquid fuel 434 may be supplied to one or more of the fuel injection lances 304 via a liquid fuel cartridge 436 that extends axially through the respective fuel injection lance 304. The liquid fuel cartridge 436 may extend through the housing body 314. The liquid fuel cartridge 436 is installed within a protective tube 437 (akin to the inner conduit 412), which defines an annulus 439 around the liquid fuel cartridge 436. The annulus 439 provides a passage through which air flows, thereby providing a thermal insulating shield to the liquid fuel cartridge 436 to minimize coking. An outer fuel passage 438 may be defined between the protective tube 437 and an inner surface of the respective fuel injection lance 304. The outer fuel passage 438 may be in fluid communication with the injector fuel plenum 336, thereby providing dual-fuel capability to the fuel injector lances 304.

In operation, each bundled tube fuel nozzle portion 302 produces a hot effluent stream of combustion gases via a relatively short flame originating from the outlets 328 of each of the tubes 322 in each corresponding primary (or first) combustion zone 102. The hot effluent stream flows downstream and into a second fuel and air stream provided by the pressure side premixing channels 132 of one of a first fuel injection panel 110 and/or by suction side premixing 134 channels of a circumferentially adjacent (or second) fuel injection panel 110. The hot effluent stream and the second premixed fuel and air streams react in the corresponding secondary combustion zone 104. The hot effluent streams from the primary combustion zones 102, approximately 40% to 95% of total combustion gas flow, are conveyed downstream to the injection planes 130, 131, where the second fuel and air mixtures are introduced and where the balance of flow is added into the respective secondary combustion zones. In one embodiment, approximately 50% of total combustion gas flow originates from the primary combustion zones 102, and the remaining approximately 50% originates from the secondary combustion zones 104. This arrangement of axial fuel staging with targeted residence times in each combustion zone minimizes overall NOx and CO emissions.

Circumferential dynamics modes are common in traditional annular combustors. However, largely due to the use of integrated combustor nozzles 110 with secondary fuel-air injection, the segmented annular combustion system provided herein reduces the likelihood that these dynamic modes will develop. Further, because each segment is isolated from circumferentially adjacent segments, dynamics tones and/or modes associated with some can-annular combustion systems are mitigated or non-existent.

During operation of the segmented annular combustion system 36, it may be necessary to cool one or more of the pressure side walls 116, the suction side walls 118, the turbine nozzle 120, the inner liner segments 106, and/or the outer liner segments 108 of each integrated combustor nozzle 100 in order to enhance mechanical performance of each integrated combustor nozzle 100 and of the segmented annular combustion system 36 overall. In order to accommodate cooling requirements, each integrated combustor nozzle 100 may include various air passages or cavities that may be in fluid communication with the high pressure plenum 34 formed within the compressor discharge casing 32 and/or with the premix air plenum 144 defined within each fuel injection panel 110.

The cooling of the integrated combustor nozzles 100 may be best understood with reference to FIGS. 6, 8 and 26. FIG.

26 provides a bottom perspective view of an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle 100, according to at least one embodiment.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 6, 8 and 26 collectively, an interior portion of each fuel injection panel 110, which is defined between the pressure side wall 116 and the suction side wall 118, may be partitioned into various air passages or cavities 160 by walls 166. In particular embodiments, the air cavities 160 may receive air from the compressor discharge casing 32 or other cooling source, via one or more openings 162 defined in the outer liner segment 108 (FIG. 8) and/or via one or more openings 164 defined in the inner liner segment 106 (FIG. 26).

As shown in FIGS. 6, 8 and 26 collectively, walls or partitions 166 may extend within the interior portion of the fuel injection panel 110 to at least partially form or separate the plurality of air cavities 160. In particular embodiments, some or all of the walls 166 may provide structural support to the pressure side wall 116 and/or the suction side wall 118 of the fuel injection panel 110. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. 8, one or more of the walls 166 may include one or more apertures 168 that allow fluid to flow between adjacent air cavities 160.

In various embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 6, 8 and 26 collectively, the plurality of air cavities 160 includes a premix channel air cavity 170 that surrounds the pressure side premixing channels 132 and the suction premixing channels 134 (or whichever set of premixing channels 132 or 134 is present). In particular embodiments, at least one air cavity 160 of the plurality of air cavities 160 extends through the turbine nozzle portion 120 of each fuel injection panel 110.

In operation, air from the high pressure plenum 34 formed by the compressor discharge casing 32 may enter the plurality of air cavities 160 via the openings 162, 164 in the outer liner segment 108 and/or the inner liner segment 106 respectively. In particular embodiments, where the interior of the fuel injection panel 110 is partitioned via the wall(s) 166, the air may flow through the apertures 168 into adjacent air cavities 160. In particular embodiments, the air may flow through one or more apertures 168 towards and/or into the premix channel air cavity 170 and/or into the premix air plenum 144 of the fuel injection panel 110. The air may then flow around the collars 146 and into the pressure side premixing channels 132 and/or the suction side premixing channels 134.

FIG. 27 provides an exploded perspective view of an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle 100, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 28 provides a top view of three assembled exemplary integrated combustor nozzles 100 (as shown exploded in FIG. 27), according to at least one embodiment. FIG. 29 provides a bottom view of an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle 100 (as shown exploded in FIG. 27), according to at least one embodiment.

In particular embodiments, as shown collectively in FIGS. 27 and 28, each integrated combustor nozzle 100 may include an outer impingement panel 178 that extends along an outer surface 180 of the outer liner segment 108. The outer impingement panel 178 may have a shape corresponding to the shape, or a portion of the shape, of the outer liner segment 108. The outer impingement panel 178 may define a plurality of impingement holes 182 defined at various locations along the outer impingement panel 178. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. 27, the outer impingement panel 178 may extend across an inlet 184 to the premix air plenum 144, which is defined along the outer

surface **180** of the outer liner segment **108**. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **27** and **28** collectively, the outer impingement panel **178** may define a plurality of openings **186** that align with, or correspond to, one or more of the openings **162** defined along the outer liner segment **108** and that correspond with the various air cavities **160** defined within the integrated combustor nozzle **100**.

In particular embodiments, as shown collectively in FIGS. **27** and **29**, each integrated combustor nozzle **100** may include an inner impingement panel **188** that extends along an outer surface **190** of the inner liner segment **106**. The inner impingement panel **188** may have a shape corresponding to the shape, or a portion of the shape, of the outer liner segment **106**. The inner impingement panel **188** may include a plurality of impingement holes **192** defined at various locations along the inner impingement panel **188**. In particular embodiments, as shown in hidden lines in FIG. **29**, the inner impingement panel **188** may extend across an inlet **194** to the premix air plenum **144**, which is defined along the outer surface **190** of the inner liner segment **106**. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **27** and **29**, the inner impingement panel **188** may define a plurality of openings **196** that align with, or correspond to, one or more of the openings **164** (FIG. **25**) defined along the inner liner segment **106** and that correspond with particular air cavities **160** defined within the integrated combustor nozzle **100**.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **27** and **28** collectively, one or more of the integrated combustor nozzles **100** includes a first impingement air insert **198** that is positioned within the turbine nozzle portion **120** of the corresponding integrated combustor nozzle **100**. The first impingement air insert **198** is formed as a hollow structure, with an opening at one or both ends, in a shape complementary to the air cavity **160** in the turbine nozzle portion **120**. The impingement air insert **198** defines a plurality of impingement holes **200**. During operation, air from the compressor discharge casing **32** may flow through a corresponding opening **162** defined in the outer liner **108** and/or opening **186** defined in the outer impingement panel **178** and into the first impingement insert **198**, where the air may flow through the impingement holes **200** as discrete jets, which impinge on interior surfaces of the turbine nozzle **120**.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. **27**, **28** and **29** collectively, one or more of the integrated combustor nozzles **100** may include a second impingement air insert **202**. The second impingement air insert **202** may be positioned, or mounted, in a cavity **204** (FIG. **28**) of the corresponding fuel injection panel **110**, which is defined downstream of the pressure side injection outlets **126** and/or suction side injection outlets **128** and upstream of the turbine nozzle **120**. As shown in FIGS. **28** and **29** collectively, the second impingement air insert **202** may be open on both a radially inner end **206** (FIG. **29**) and a radially outer end **208** (FIG. **28**) to allow air from the compressor discharge casing **32** to flow freely through the fuel injection panel **110**. A portion of the air passing through the impingement air insert **202** is used to impinge on an interior surface of the corresponding fuel injection panel **110**. After impinging on the interior surfaces of the fuel injection panel **110**, air flows through the fuel injection panel **110** toward the forward end **112** of the fuel injection panel **110**, where the air is directed into the inlets of the premixing channels **132**, **134**.

Air that passes freely through the second impingement air insert **202** may be mixed with compressed air within the compressor discharge casing **32** as the compressed air flows towards the bundled tube fuel nozzle portion **302** of each of the fuel injection modules **300** where it may be mixed with

fuel. In various embodiments, the air from the compressor discharge casing **32** may flow into the premixing channel cooling cavity **170** for cooling the pressure side and/or the suction side premixing channels **132**, **134**.

In other embodiments, two impingement air inserts may be inserted within a given air cavity **160**, such as a first impingement air insert installed through the inner liner segment **106** and a second impingement air insert installed through the outer liner segment **108**. Such an assembly may be useful when the cavity **160** has a shape (e.g., an hourglass shape) that prevents insertion of a single impingement air insert through the radial dimension of the cavity **160**. Alternately, two or more impingement air inserts may be positioned sequentially in an axial direction within a given cavity **160**.

FIG. **30** provides an enlarged view of a portion of the outer liner segment **108** of one of the exemplary integrated combustor nozzles **100**, as shown in FIG. **29**. FIG. **31** provides an enlarged view of a portion of the inner liner segment **106** of one of the exemplary integrated combustor nozzles **100**, as shown in FIG. **29**.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. **30**, the outer impingement panel **178** may be radially spaced from the outer surface **180** of the outer liner segment **108** to form a cooling flow gap **210** therebetween. The cooling flow gap **210** may extend between the downstream end portion **114** and the upstream end portion **112** of the corresponding fuel injection panel **100**. During operation, as shown in FIG. **30**, air **26** from the compressor discharge casing **32** (FIG. **2**) flows against the outer impingement panel **178** and through the impingement holes **182**. The impingement holes **182** direct multiple jets of the air **26** against and/or across the outer surface **180** of the outer liner segment **108** at discrete locations to provide jetted or impingement cooling thereto. The air **26** may then flow through the inlet **184** at the upstream end portion **112** of the outer liner segment **108** and into the premix air plenum **144** defined within the fuel injection panel **110** where it may be distributed to the individual pressure side premixing channels **132** and/or the suction side premixing channels **134**. The outer liner segment **108** may define, along each longitudinal edge thereof, a C-shaped slot **109** within which a seal (not shown) may be installed along its length to seal the joint **122** between adjacent outer liner segments **108**.

As shown in FIG. **31**, the inner impingement panel **188** may be radially spaced from the outer surface **190** of the inner liner segment **106** to form a cooling flow gap **212** therebetween. The cooling flow gap **212** may extend between the downstream end portion **114** and the upstream end portion **112** of the corresponding fuel injection panel **100**. During operation, as shown in FIG. **31**, air **26** from the compressor discharge casing **32** flows against the inner impingement panel **188** and through the impingement holes **192**. The impingement holes **192** direct multiple jets of the air against and/or across the outer surface **190** of the inner liner segment **106** at discrete locations to provide jetted or impingement cooling thereto. The air **26** may then flow through the inlet **194** at the upstream end portion **112** of the inner liner segment **106** and into the premix air plenum **144** defined within the fuel injection panel **110** where it may be distributed to the individual pressure side premixing channels **132** and/or the suction side premixing channels **134**. The inner liner segment **106** may define, along each longitudinal edge thereof, a C-shaped slot **107** within which a seal (not shown) may be installed along its length to seal the joint **122** between adjacent inner liner segments **106**.

FIGS. 30 and 31 further illustrate at least one micro-channel cooling passage 216 extending through the outer liner segment 108 and/or the inner liner segment 106, respectively. The micro-channel cooling passage 216 has an inlet hole 214 in communication with the cooling flow gap 210 (as shown in FIG. 30) or the premix air plenum (as shown in FIG. 31). The micro-channel cooling passages 216 terminate in air outlet holes 218, which may be located along the longitudinal edges of the respective liner segment 106 or 108.

FIGS. 32 and 33 are intended to be illustrative of a portion of either the inner liner segment 106 or the outer liner segment 108, according to particular embodiments of the present disclosure. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 32 and 33, the outer surface 190 of the inner liner segment 106 and/or the outer surface 180 of the outer liner segment 108 may define or include a plurality of air inlet holes 214 for receiving air from the compressor discharge casing 32 (FIG. 2). Each inlet hole 214 (shown in hatched lines in FIG. 33) may be integrated with a relatively short micro-channel cooling passage 216 that terminates at a corresponding air outlet hole 218 (shown as a solid circle in FIG. 33). In the illustrated embodiment, the inlet hole(s) 214 and the corresponding outlet hole(s) 218 are disposed on the same surface (i.e., the outer surface 180, 190) of the respective liner segment 108, 106. However, in other embodiments, the outlet hole(s) 218 may be disposed on the inner surface.

The length of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may vary. In particular embodiments, the length of some or all of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be less than about ten inches. In particular embodiments, the length of some or all of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be less than about six inches. In particular embodiments, the length of some or all of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be less than about two inches. In particular embodiments, the length of some or all of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be less than about one inch. Generally speaking, the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may have a length of between 0.5 inches and six inches. The length of the various micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be determined by the diameter of the micro-channel cooling passage 216, the heat pick-up capability of the air flowing therethrough, and the local temperature of the area of the liner segment 106, 108 being cooled.

In particular embodiments, one or more of the air outlet holes 218 may be located along the outer surface 190, 180 of the respective inner liner segment 106 or the outer liner segment 108 and may deposit the air from the respective inlet holes 214 into a collection trough 220 (FIG. 32). As shown in FIG. 32, the collection trough 220 may be defined by a duct 222 that extends along the respective outer surface 190 of the inner liner segment 106 or the outer surface 180 of the outer liner segment 108. The collection trough 220 may channel at least a portion of the air to the premix air plenum 144 (FIG. 31) of the fuel injection panel 110 where it may be distributed to the various pressure side premixing channels 132 and/or the suction side premixing channels 134. More details about microchannel cooling are described in commonly assigned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/944,341, filed Nov. 18, 2015.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. 32, one or more of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be oriented so as to terminate in the openings 162, 164 of one or more of the air cavities 160. Thus, the air from one or more of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be mixed with the air that is used to cool the interior of the fuel

injection panel 110, which may or may not have impingement air inserts therein. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 30 and 31, the outlet holes 218 of one or more of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be located along a side wall of the inner liner segment 106 or a side wall of the outer liner segment 108 such that the air flows through the micro-channel cooling passages 216 and then between two circumferentially adjacent inner liner segments 106 or outer liner segments 108 along the split line 122 (FIG. 28), thereby creating a fluid seal therebetween. In one embodiment, the outlet holes 218 of one or more of the micro-channel cooling passages 216 may be located along an inner surface of the inner liner segment 106 or an inner surface of the outer liner segment 108 such that the air flows through the micro-channel cooling passages 216 and then enters either the primary or the secondary combustion zones 102, 104 as film air.

It is also contemplated herein that, instead of (or in addition to) cooling the liner segments 106, 108 by impingement cooling or microchannel cooling, the liner segments 106, 108 may be cooled convectively. In this configuration (not shown), the liner segments 106, 108 are provided with correspondingly shaped cooling sleeves, thereby defining an annulus between the liner segment and the sleeve. The aft ends of the sleeves are provided with a plurality of cooling inlet holes, which permit air 26 to enter the annulus and be conveyed upstream to the premixed plenum 144. The outer surface of the liner segment 106, 108 and/or the inner surface(s) of the sleeve(s) may be provided with heat-transfer features, such as turbulators, dimples, pins, chevrons, or the like, to augment the heat transfer away from the liner segment 106, 108. As the air 26 passes through the annulus and over or around the heat-transfer features, the air convectively cools the respective liner segment 106, 108. The air 26 then enters the premixing air plenum 144 and is mixed with fuel, in one or both of the bundled tube fuel nozzle 302 or the premixing channels 132, 134. In the case where the air is directed into the premixing channels 132, 134, the air further cools the channels 132, 134, as the air flows through.

FIG. 34 provides a perspective view of a portion of a suction side of the segmented annular combustion system 36, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 35 provides a bottom perspective view of a portion of one exemplary integrated combustor nozzle 100, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 36 provides a cross-sectioned side view of an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle 100 mounted within the segmented annular combustion system 36, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

In one embodiment as shown in FIG. 34, each integrated combustor nozzle 100 includes a mounting strut 224 attached to a corresponding outer liner segment 108. In order to support the integrated combustor nozzles 100 within the combustion section 16, each mounting strut 224 is attached to an outer mounting ring 226. Although the outer mounting ring 226 is shown at the aft end of the liner segments 108, it should be understood that the mounting struts 224 may be configured to permit the mounting ring 226 to be disposed at the forward end of the liner segments 108 (as in FIG. 36) or at some position intermediate between the forward and aft ends.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIGS. 34, 35 and 36 collectively, each integrated combustor nozzle 100 may include an inner hook or hook plate 228 and an outer hook or hook plate 252. The inner hook 228 may be disposed along, or may be attached to, the inner liner segment 106 or

may form a part of the inner liner segment 106 proximate the turbine nozzle 120. The outer hook 252 may be disposed along, or may be attached to, the outer liner segment 108 or may form a part of the outer liner segment 108 proximate the turbine nozzle 120. As shown in FIG. 36, each inner hook 228 may be coupled to an inner mounting ring 230. The inner hook 228 and the outer hook 252 may be oppositely disposed or extend in opposite axial directions.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. 36, an outer double bellows seal 232 extends between the outer mounting ring 226 and the outer liner segment 108 proximate to the turbine nozzle 120. One end portion 234 of the outer double bellows seal 232 may be coupled to or sealed against the outer mounting ring 226. A second end portion 236 of the outer double bellows seal 232 may be coupled to or sealed against the outer liner segment 108 or an intermediate structure attached to the outer liner segment 108. In other embodiments, the outer double bellows seal 238 may be replaced by one or more leaf seals.

In particular embodiments, an inner double bellows seal 238 extends between the inner mounting ring 230 and the inner liner segment 106 proximate to the turbine nozzle 120. One end portion 240 of the inner double bellows seal 238 may be coupled to or sealed against the inner mounting ring 230. A second end portion 242 of the inner double bellows seal 238 may be coupled to or sealed against the inner liner segment 106 or an intermediate structure attached to the inner liner segment 106. In other embodiments, the inner double bellows seal 238 may be replaced by one or more leaf seals.

FIG. 37 provides a perspective view of a pair of circumferentially adjacent double bellows seals and is intended to be illustrative of either the inner or the outer double bellows seals 238, 232, according to at least one embodiment. The inner and/or outer double bellows seals 238, 232 may be produced by welding or otherwise joining two bellows segments 244 and 246. The inner and/or outer double bellows seals 238, 232 (or leaf seals) may accommodate movement between the inner mounting ring 230 and the integrated combustor nozzles 100 and/or movement between the outer mounting ring 226 and the integrated combustor nozzles 100 in both axial and radial directions. Each or some of the inner double bellows seals 238 or the outer double bellows seal 232 (or, alternately, leaf seals) may circumferentially span more than one integrated combustor nozzle 100. In particular embodiments, an intermediate double bellows seal 248 (or leaf seal) may be placed over a gap 250, which may be formed between circumferentially adjacent double bellows (or leaf) seals.

FIG. 38 provides a perspective view of a pressure side of an exemplary integrated combustor nozzle 100, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 39 provides a cross-sectioned perspective view of a portion of the integrated combustor nozzle 100, as shown in FIG. 38. In one embodiment, as shown in FIGS. 35 and 38, the integrated combustor nozzle 100 includes the inner hook or hook plate 228. The inner hook 228 may be disposed along or may be attached to the inner liner segment 106 or may form a part of the inner liner segment 106 proximate the turbine nozzle 120. The integrated combustor nozzle 100 may also include one or more outer hooks 252 defined along the outer surface 180 of the outer liner segment 108 proximate the turbine nozzle 120.

As shown in FIGS. 38 and 39, the integrated combustor nozzle 100 further includes a mounting tenon or root 254 disposed along the outer surface 190 of the inner liner segment 106 proximate the upstream end 112 of the inte-

grated combustor nozzle 100. In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. 38, a separate mounting tenon 254 may be disposed along and/or attached to the outer surface 180 of the outer liner segment 108 proximate the upstream end 112 of the integrated combustor nozzle 100, instead of, or in addition to, the mounting tenon 254 attached to the inner liner segment 106. In particular embodiments, the mounting tenon 254 (whether on the inner liner segment 106 or the outer liner segment 108 or both) may have a dovetail or fir tree shape.

FIG. 40 provides a perspective view of a portion of the segmented annular combustion system 36, according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 41 provides a cross-sectioned side view of the portion of the segmented annular combustion system 36 shown in FIG. 40, according to one embodiment. As shown in FIGS. 40 and 41 collectively, the segmented annular combustion system 36 may be mounted to the outer mounting ring 226 and to the inner mounting ring 230.

As shown in FIGS. 40 and 41 collectively, inner slots 256 and outer slots 258 are provided and/or defined on vertical face portions 260, 262 of the inner mounting ring 230 and the outer mounting ring 226 respectively, for receiving the inner hooks 228 and the outer hooks 252, respectively. As mentioned above, the inner hooks 228 and the outer hooks 252 may be oppositely disposed or extend in opposite axial directions. An inner slot cover 264 may cover or secure the inner hooks 228 within the inner slots 256. The inner slot cover 264 may be bolted or otherwise joined to the inner mounting ring 230 to secure the inner hooks 228 into place. An outer slot cover 266 may cover or secure the outer hooks 252 within the outer slots 258. The outer slot cover 266 may be bolted or otherwise joined to the outer mounting ring 226 to secure the outer hooks 252 into place.

In various embodiments (shown in FIG. 41), the mounting tenon 254 on the inner liner segment 106 may be installed within a tenon mount 269, which includes a slot 270 shaped to receive the mounting tenon 254. In turn, the tenon mount 269 may be joined, via a mechanical fastener 272 (such as a bolt or pin), to an inner forward mounting ring 268. FIG. 42 provides a cross-sectioned downstream perspective view of an exemplary tenon 254 mounted within the mounting flange slot 270, according to at least one embodiment of the present disclosure.

In particular embodiments, as shown in FIG. 42, a damper 274 (such as a spring, spring seal, or damping mesh material) may be disposed within each slot 270 between the slot walls and the tenon 254. The damper(s) 274 may reduce wear and improve the mechanical life and/or performance of the tenon 254 over time by reducing vibrations at that joint or interface.

The various embodiments of the segmented annular combustion system 36, particularly the integrated combustor nozzles 100 in combination with the fuel injection modules 300 described and illustrated herein, provide various enhancements or improvements to the operations and turn-down capability over conventional annular combustion systems. For example, during start-up of the segmented annular combustion system 36, the igniters 364 ignite the fuel and air mixture flowing from the outlets 328 of the tubes 322 of the plurality of tubes 322. As power needs increase, fuel to some portion or all of the fuel injection lances 304 supplying the fuel injection panels 110 may be turned on simultaneously or sequentially until each fuel injection panel 110 is fully operational.

To reduce power output, the fuel flowing to some portion or all of the fuel injection lances 304 may be throttled down

simultaneously or sequentially, as desired. When it becomes desirable or necessary to turn off some of the fuel injection panels **110**, the fuel injection lances **304** of every other fuel injection panel **110** may be shut off, thereby minimizing any disturbance to the turbine operation.

Depending on the particular configurations of the fuel injection modules **300**, the fuel injection lances **304** feeding the suction side premixing channels **134** may be turned off, while fuel to the fuel injection lances **304** feeding the pressure side premixing channels **132** continues. Depending on the particular configurations of the fuel injection modules **300**, the fuel injection lances **304** feeding the pressure side premixing channels **132** may be turned off, while fuel to the fuel injection lances **304** feeding the suction side premixing channels **134** continues. Depending on the particular configurations of the fuel injection modules **300**, the fuel injection lances **304** feeding every other fuel injection panel **110** may be turned off, while fuel to the fuel injection lances **304** feeding alternate fuel injection panels **110** continues.

In particular embodiments, fuel may be shut off to the radially inner (or first) subset **340** of fuel injection lances **304**, or fuel may be shut off to the radially outer (or second) subset **344** of fuel injection lances **304** of one or more of the fuel injection panels **100**. In particular embodiments, fuel to the first subset **340** of fuel injection lances **304** or fuel to the second subset **344** of fuel injection lances **304** of one or more of the fuel injection panels **100** may be shut off in an alternating pattern (radially inner/radially outer/radially inner/etc.) until all of the fuel injection lances **304** are turned off, and only the bundled tube fuel nozzle portions **302** are fueled. In other embodiments, various combinations of fueled and unfueled fuel lances **304** and bundled tube fuel nozzle portions **302** may be used to achieve the desired level of turndown.

While reference has been made throughout the present disclosure and in the accompanying Figures to a fuel injection module **300** with individual fuel lances **304**, it is contemplated that the fuel lances **304** may be replaced by a fuel manifold in the fuel injection module **300** that interfaces with the premixing channels **132**, **134** or by a fuel manifold located within the fuel injection panel **110** that delivers fuel to the premixing channels **132**, **134**. It is further contemplated that the fuel manifold may be located toward the aft end of the fuel injection panel **110**, such that the fuel (or fuel-air mixture) cools the aft end of the fuel injection panel **110** before being introduced through the outlets **126**, **128**.

It is to be understood that fuel may be supplied to one or more of the fuel injection panels **110** and/or to one or more fuel injection modules **300** of the segmented annular combustion system **36** during various operational modes of the combustor. It is not required that each circumferentially adjacent fuel injection panel **110** or circumferentially adjacent fuel injection module **300** be supplied with fuel or fired simultaneously. Thus, during particular operational modes of the segmented annular combustion system **36**, each individual fuel injection panel **110** and/or each fuel injection module **300** or random subsets of the fuel injection panels **110** and/or random subsets of the fuel injection modules **300** may be brought on-line (fueled) or shut off independently and may have similar or different fuel flow rates so as to provide operational flexibility for such operational modes as start-up, turndown, base-load, full-load and other operational conditions.

This written description uses examples to disclose the invention, including the best mode, and to enable any person skilled in the art to practice the invention, including making and using any devices or systems and performing any

incorporated methods. The patentable scope of the invention is defined by the claims, and may include other examples that occur to those skilled in the art. Such other examples are intended to be within the scope of the claims if they include structural elements that do not differ from the literal language of the claims, or if they include equivalent structural elements with insubstantial differences from the literal language of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An integrated combustor nozzle of an annular combustor, comprising:

a fuel injection panel extending radially between an inner liner segment and an outer liner segment, the fuel injection panel including a forward end portion at an upstream end of the annular combustor, an aft end portion, a first side wall, a second side wall, a plurality of premixing channels defined between the first side wall and the second side wall, and a plurality of injection outlets defined along at least one of the first side wall and the second side wall, the aft end portion of the fuel injection panel defining a turbine nozzle portion of the fuel injection panel;

wherein the fuel injection panel further comprises an interior portion defined within the fuel injection panel between the first side wall and the second side wall, wherein the interior portion includes a plurality of walls that extend between an inner surface of the first side wall and an inner surface of the second side wall, thereby partitioning the semi-hollow interior portion into a plurality of air cavities.

2. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of air cavities includes a premix channel air cavity, wherein the plurality of premixing channels is disposed within the premix channel air cavity.

3. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of air cavities includes a premix air plenum defined upstream from the plurality of premixing channels.

4. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, wherein the inner liner segment defines one or more openings in fluid communication with one or more air cavities of the plurality of air cavities.

5. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, wherein the outer liner segment defines one or more openings in fluid communication with one or more air cavities of the plurality of air cavities.

6. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, wherein at least one wall of the plurality of walls defines a plurality of apertures, and wherein the plurality of apertures provide for cooling air flow through the at least one wall into or out of a respective cooling air cavity of the plurality of cooling air cavities.

7. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, further comprising at least one impingement air insert disposed within a corresponding air cavity of the plurality of air cavities.

8. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 7, wherein the at least one impingement air insert defines a plurality of cooling holes oriented to direct air flow onto one or more of the inner surfaces surface of the first side wall or the inner surface of the second side wall of the fuel injection panel.

9. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 7, wherein the at least one impingement air insert is open on at least one of a radially inner end and a radially outer end of the impingement air insert.

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10. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, wherein at least one air cavity of the plurality of air cavities extends at least partially through the turbine nozzle portion of the fuel injection panel.

11. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, wherein at least one air cavity of the plurality of air cavities extends at least partially through the turbine nozzle portion of the fuel injection panel a respective air cavity of the plurality of air cavities extends at least partially through the turbine nozzle portion of the fuel injection panel, and wherein an impingement air insert is disposed within the respective at least one air cavity of the plurality of air cavities.

12. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of impingement air inserts, wherein each impingement air insert is disposed within a respective air cavity of the plurality of air cavities.

13. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 12, wherein at least one impingement air insert of the plurality of impingement air inserts is open on both a radially inner end of the respective impingement air insert and a radially outer end of the respective impingement air insert.

14. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, further comprising an inner impingement panel disposed along an outer surface of the inner liner segment, wherein the inner impingement panel defines a plurality of impingement holes, and wherein the inner impingement panel is radially spaced from the outer surface of the inner liner segment to form a cooling flow gap therebetween.

15. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 14, wherein the cooling flow gap is in fluid communication with an inlet of a premix air plenum of the fuel injection panel.

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16. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 14, wherein the inner impingement panel defines one or more openings in fluid communication with one or more corresponding air cavities of the plurality of cavities.

17. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, further comprising an outer impingement panel disposed along an outer surface of the outer liner segment, wherein the outer impingement panel defines a plurality of impingement holes, and wherein the outer impingement panel is radially spaced from the outer surface of the outer liner segment to form a cooling flow gap therebetween.

18. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 17, wherein the cooling flow gap is in fluid communication with a premix air plenum of the fuel injection panel.

19. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 17, wherein the outer impingement panel defines one or more openings in fluid communication with one or more corresponding air cavities of the plurality of cavities.

20. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 1, further comprising a mounting strut coupled to an outer surface of the outer liner segment, wherein the mounting strut includes a plurality of air inlet holes, and wherein the plurality of air inlet holes in the mounting strut is in fluid communication with at least one of the air cavities of the plurality of air cavities.

21. The integrated combustor nozzle as in claim 20, wherein the plurality of air inlet holes in the mounting strut is in fluid communication with a premix air plenum defined within the fuel injection panel.

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